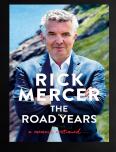


## **RICK MERCER** CANADIAN COMEDIAN, TELEVISION

PERSONALITY, POLITICAL SATIRIST

AND AUTHOR



### **KIRBY LAMBERT - BLADESMITH**





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Traynor





#### **Features**

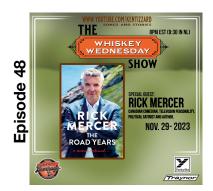
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Music is to the soul what words are to the mind! Balancing Music & Words

Writer-Oral Historian-Art Director-Graphic Designer-Editor-Lublisher Allison Edwards Musician-Storyteller-Lhotographer-Videographer-Lublisher Ken Tizzard \*Cover Design Welcome to the new improved, not concise Whiskey Wednesday Fanzine. A fanzine is a non-professional and non-official publication produced by enthusiasts of a particular cultural phenomenon for the pleasure of others who share their interest. I think that about sums up The Whiskey Wednesday Fanzine.

### Weekly Highlights & Setlists

#### Episode 44-Wednesday, November 1st 1) FMNL/Pain Free Living- Ken Tizzard

- 2) Tournament Of Hearts- The Weakerthans
- 3) Sonny's Dream- Ron Hynes
- 4) Whatta Ya At? John Whynot
- 5) One Frost Away- Ken Tizzard
- 6) Already Gone- Ken Tizzard
- 7) 30 For 60- Ron Hynes
- 8) Barstools And Broken Hearts- Ken Tizzard
- 9) Kiss An Angel- Charley Pride

Video Rewind- The Devil



We did not start the month off with the usual All Request Evening because we enjoyed Part Two of whatta ya at? with John Whynot. With five Wednesdays in November next week will feel like the start of the month.

This evening Ken shared...

A Medley Of Good News



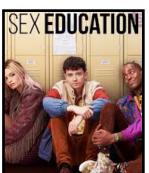
Ken starts the evening with a big gulp of Brain Juice and welcomes viewers in Europe, "Guten Tag (good day) for those of you watching in Germany."

This inspired Ken to share his first good news, "We're watching that show about the SAS, it has that kid (Adam) from Sex Education. What's the name of that new show we're watching?" He is asking Neil who as regulars know was in our Covid bubble and he has never left. He joins us every evening for dinner and most nights will stay for an episode or two of our latest binge.



Sex Education is a British comedy drama following the lives of the teenagers and adults as they contend with personal dilemmas, often related to sexual intimacy.

A fun fact, Ken did two semesters at MUN (Memorial University of Newfoundland) and he majored in German. I'm still curious why? Nothing against German I'm just not sure what his long-term plan was.



**SAS: Rogue Heroes** is a British historical drama which depicts the origins of the British Army Special Air Service (SAS) during the Western Desert Campaign of World War II. A British Army officer has the idea of creating a special commando unit which could operate deep behind enemy lines.

# Medley of Good News — 1) KenCon-Original (played often)



-Pain Free Living from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

Ken sharing fantastic news, "I went to see Dylan last week. On screen we have Cam Carpenter. He is an old friend of mine, he goes way back to signing the Watchmen, he's been on the Show (June, 2023 edition). He called me Thursday morning and said 'I've got an extra ticket to Dylan, can you come down to Massey Hall?' I haven't been to the new Massey Hall yet, OMG yes.

What a concert. If you are like 'oh I'm going to go see Dylan and hear, *Blowin' In The Wind'* and all those greatest hits, you're out of luck. And in fact you would probably be, strangely enough, bored silly. But at the same time there is a magic there. It's hard for me to tell because I'm such a fan.

I was planning to take all these great photos. When you go into the show they give you this thing. You slide your cell phone in, it closes at the top and magnetically locks. Then when you leave the show there are all these bins and you go over and there is somebody next to the bin. You hold it over, it magnetically opens and you take your phone out.



At first I thought this is great nobody's going to be taking photos and videos. What I realized is, about five times during the 90 minutes I reached inside my jacket

just to grab my phone to look at it. It kept me in the moment of the show, not just me, the entire Massey Hall. Everybody was just focused. It was the most stripped down, beautiful thing ever. Bare stage lights, cables and amplifiers everywhere. Nothing in the way of coloured lights or backgrounds. It was just fantastic, I absolutely loved it."

We were out in the garden planting bulbs when Ken received the invitation from Cam. Unbelievably at first he said to me 'I'm not sure I'm going to go, I leave again tomorrow for Regina, I think it's too much'. I said are you crazy, Bob Dylan is your absolute hero, this will most likely be the final time you'll ever see him in concert.

I'm really happy he received this good news because I was about to deliver some bad news. I realized there was an error, 50 bulbs were planted in the wrong garden. There was a mix up between English Wood Hyacinths and Grape Hyacinths. Yes they're both Hyacinths but different colours and I am having specific colours for different gardens. I did have a crying breakdown which I think was actually quite therapeutic, I needed it. Ken and Aunty Claire dug up 32 of the 50 bulbs in the wrong garden and made the switch. So I am going to embrace what comes up in the spring. As Aunty Claire said it may turn out wonderfully!





A Medley of Good News -

#### The Whiskey Wednesday Clubhouse

Let's see who's in the clubhouse with me!

There is always lots of good news in the Clubhouse, highlights tonight included...

Ken responded to *Laurence Bell*, "Shout out from Texas!!" "It's nice to see a Texan in the house. I spent the day listening to some Slaid Cleaves." Ken then figured out who Lawrence was, "Oh Larry is a cucumber." Larry is not, he is a friend of Dave's and you can read all about him in September's magazine (pg. 8).

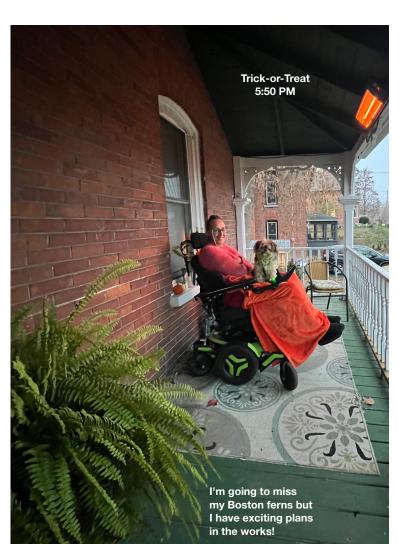
Ken continued to have a lot of difficulty pronouncing *Steve Astolfo's* name this evening. *Steve* helped him out and wrote it phonetically, "A-stall-foe" and also posted, "Missed this and all of you the last couple weeks. Glad to be back!!" I agree with *Debbie Parsan*, "Welcome back."

Debbie Parsan observed, "We are all on the same Feed? Ron, Steve, G.T. Tony & Barry, so far!" Yes for some reason this evening the Show was only broadcasting on one of Ken's Facebook feeds. It was also on YouTube, Twitch and X formerly known as Twitter. I've noticed lately there have been a few 'Twitchers' tuning in.

Debbie Parsan was busy in the Clubhouse, it sounds like an outing is being planned, "Joe, we can still go ice fishing?" Joe Murray suggested, "Wanna go winter camping?" Debbie Parsan, "Sure! On your island?" Joe Murray, "Of course!"

r, so far!" cebook ely there This is Larry the Cucumber not to be confused with

Lawrence Bell from Texas



#### Richard Grechulk,

"Happy Whiskey Wednesday. Survived another year of Halloween at school. I'm sure Allison loved those days." It's funny that you say this Richard. I may be the only kindergarten teacher ever to say I really disliked Halloween day. Don't get me wrong, I loved decorating for it, making crafts etc. I had zero imagination for costumes and I will explain Halloween day in a kindergarten room: putting on and taking off 25 costumes; parading around school (St. Mary's is built on a hill, five floors); culminating in three, four and five-year-olds freaking out on sugar highs. I'm exhausted just thinking about it. The best thing happened about 10 years ago, our school started doing all staff themed costumes. I paid, a costume showed up, all done for me. When I'm in a costume I have a fantastic time!

We gave out Halloween candy for the first time in about 10 years and I loved every minute of it. My life is often divided into pre-and post MS. I used to go all out for Halloween decorating and I would make up 100 individual Halloween treat bags. Still no bags this year, I planned to give out Halloween stickers but they did not arrive in time. I did get individual "fun dips" and I must say it was a big hit with the kids. I sat outside bundled under my heater toasty warm for just over an hour and a half. I was happily exhausted from all the fresh air. The next morning I "announced" to Ken we are making the front porch a winter wonderland so that I can go outside all winter long. I have lots of ideas.



2) *KenCon-Cover-The Weakerthans* (played occasionally) -Tournament of Hearts from the *Reunion Tour* album (2007)

### Throwback From the April, 2023 Wrap-Up Music Magazine

Here's Ken's intro, "This is a song that I used to introduce by saying it was a song about Canadian bowling. But apparently I have been wrong about things before." Mr. Grant confirmed this, "Both the bowlers and the curlers took offense." I don't think Ken got the hint he shared this, "Curling is like bowling on ice with house work added into it. This is one of the best curling songs ever written by a band from Winnipeg called **The Weakerthans**."





The band was formed in 1997 in Winnipeg and was active until 2014. While researching I listened to their original song and I know I am 100% biased but I really like our Goat version. By the way ours is a lot slower.

**Brad Gushue** (age 42) is a Canadian curler from St. John's, Newfoundland. Many accomplishments, some highlights: 2 Olympic medals; 4 World Championships; a record five-time Brier champion; and their win in 2017 was Newfoundland and Labrador's first Brier title in 41 years. No wonder Aunt Betty is such a Brad Gushue fan.

I really enjoy watching curling, my Uncle Clive taught me the game. I found this curling overview which I thought was clear...Curling is an ice sport popular in Canada. In a "throw," one teammate slides a large polished stone down a sheet of ice the length of the curling rink while two other players sweep the ice directly in front of the stone without touching it. Sweeping the ice makes the stone go further by momentarily melting the top of the ice through friction, thus reducing the drag on the stone. The goal is to throw the stone with just enough force so that it stops on the center of a target without going past it. Two teams take turns throwing stones, aiming both to get their stones close to the target and knock their opponents' stones out of the way. Whichever team's stone ends up closest to the center of the target after 16 stones total are thrown wins the "end. There are eight "ends" in a game."



Ken admits his omission after finishing the song, "That was me, in the middle part where everything got weird and everybody played the wrong chords for a moment. That was me, I think I left some of the words out. Apologize to my Winnipeg family and friends for screwing up the words on a Winnipeg song." I am sure you have been forgiven.

*3) KenCon-Ron Types* (played occasionally) -**Sonny's Dream** from *Face To The Gale* album (1997, song written in 1976)





This song had a special dedication this evening, "Lovely, what a lovely song to send out to Jigs & Reels (Newfoundland Music Radio Show). I'll post on my Facebook page tomorrow a link. Really cool people and they are supporting Newfoundland music which is excellent."

#### 4) whatta ya at? A Medley of Musical Insights by John Whynot

You can now turn to page 65 to read the John Whynot article if you want to stay in the flow of the Show.

After returning 'on air', "John Whynot what a splendid guy. He's been such a fantastic friend to me for years. Another one of my many blessings that I am happy to share with you all. It's actually great because these guys (the Goats) don't see these interviews either. So I'm watching the interviews with you and seeing your reactions. As John was talking about, it's about the audience."



*5) KenCon-Original* (played occasionally) -**One Frost Away** from *No Dark No Light* album (2015)



Happy 100th Show Barry and I do hope this makes your life easier in the long run." Barry has full confidence it will and if tonight is any indication, it's going to be wonderful. *Steve Astolfo,* "New camera pans are sick!!" *Tony Arkell,* "Barry's having fun pressing some buttons!"

#### 6) *KenCon-Original* (3rd performance) -Already Gone from some future album

After the song Ken asked Neil a question with a mischievous look on his face, "There you go a new song, *Already Gone.* How did that one feel Neil?" Neil's first response, "It felt absolutely great (his second response) oh shut up. You mean you didn't like that chord. I thought it was great." All the boys are laughing now. Ken points out, "That's the beauty of the Show ladies and gentlemen, we are learning as we are going." Then Neil points out to Ken, "Thank goodness you don't make any mistakes." Ken is the first to admit, "Make mistakes? Almost every note I play is a mistake."

The good news continues, "We got Barry a new toy as a gift for his 100th Show a few weeks back. Trying to make his life easier by giving him more things to use. This is called a Stream Deck, it's basically eight buttons, four knobs and that little strip (below the buttons, above the knobs) is like that thing on the laptop that you can move through pages. These are all programmable buttons which you can customize.

So what I have done is basically taken Barry's environment and put it into this little box. So all Barry has to do is push buttons. But of course it changes everything about the way his work flow is. So even though it's greatly simplified, it's also a brand new thing and he is scrolling through trying to get things according to our notes.



Along with the Stream Deck there is something else new in the Broadcast Studio, "Caitlyn is moving so she dropped off a whole bunch of stuff. There was this nice table, so Caitlyn we have stolen it, it's now our production desk. It's a wonderful addition to the room."







"Neil and I were in Regina last weekend we didn't do a house concert. The Watchmen show was phenomenal. We had a great crew out with us, Dan, Neil and Ian. Just a really, really nice weekend. It was Halloween so everybody dressed up." The boys did not take a lot of photos on the weekend. Neil captured this photo side stage so that I could see fans in costumes.





"We had a chance to hang out, have breakfast with Kirby who is going to be on the Show in a couple of weeks. He makes knives. So that's really the end of that story. But Kirby also helped me set up a stop into a place called the Tiki Room." You will hear all about that coming up but first a few more photos from Regina.



Facebook-"Tonight The Watchmen in Regina. Winter is here folks."



Guess whose side of the bed it is?

Ken's side of the bed. 🥩

My side of the bed.

Love it, that will make it into the magazine for sure!

Welcome to my world! As regulars know Ken and I now sleep in separate rooms. I have to laugh when I wheel in there sometimes I feel like it's definitely 14 year old Ken. Underwear and socks all over the floor. And before you ask, yes there is a laundry hamper conveniently located in his room. My bedroom/living room is always organized except maybe Wednesday nights when Ken is often getting dressed last minute for the 8 o'clock broadcast. His ties are often left behind. We did have a good laugh last week. One of my PSW's found one of Ken's crumpled socks under MY bed, again he was quickly changing on a Wednesday night. Thanks Neil for the photos!

A Medley of Good News

### Will Ren Ever Skate Again?

Back to Kirby and the Tiki Room, "He took us there because I am starting a new segment called Will Ken Ever Skate Again? This is going to be a series of interviews and videos where at 54 years old I have decided to put the intention out that I will skateboard again."



"I did interview with this poor young shop guy. I went in with a camera and pointed it in his face and said can I do an interview with you. He spent 15 minutes talking to me about skateboarding and how it has changed. I am going to do an interview with this friend of Kirby's who has been pretty instrumental in keeping skateboarding alive throughout Saskatchewan."



"Allison refuses to believe that I should ever stand on a skateboard again. I know, I'm with her, I totally get it. It is the one thing I dream about. It's not even about doing tricks. I dream about skateboarding down a slow incline."



"When I was in the skate shop I bought a pair of skate shoes. I haven't had a good pair of skate shoes in a long time. I bought half cabs." I will admit the skate shoes look fantastic and a new baseball cap is always welcomed but I'm still undecided whether skateboarding is a good idea. I want to be supportive, gratefully I have a fantastic therapist, she will help me work through this.

Thrasher is a skateboarding magazine founded in January 1981

*Storytime* with *Ken* Tonight's story... It was meant to be!





"As we were leaving (Tiki Room) Kirby said there's a record store (which means of course Ken has to visit). It's one of these records and hemp stores, it's like T-shirts and stoner wear. And a ton of records, I walked in and saw this sea of records. I did a once through and there was a bunch of stuff. I thought I'm going to be here for five forking hours, I can't do this (I'm sure Neil was appreciative of this).

So I went up to the counter and said 'do you have a punk rock section?' 'Yeah, we don't have a lot, it's over there'. I went over, there's probably 20 records. On the third flip this came up (displays album) Dead Kennedys, look what it's called, *A Skateboard Party*.

I had this on cassette. I think Don Ellis may have had it, one of the guys back home. I had this on cassette when I was a teenager and I loved it. And I lost the cassette and I never thought about it again. I never even knew it existed on vinyl. It was 20 bucks. I got home and I played it and I remember all the banter between the songs.

It says skateboarding on it, I was doing a skateboarding thing (he looks into camera) Allison you should start to see the universe wants something." Mr. Grant suggests, "It's drawing you in." That sneaky Ken using the universe, I'm still not convinced.



#### 7) *KenCon-Ron Hynes* (played occasionally) -**30 For 60** from *Stealing Genius* album (2010)

"That one is for my Aunt Betty as always. Hope everyone is well back home Aunt Betty. I'm going to take a minute and check in on the message board. It looks like a bunch of the same people having a great time." Ken then chuckles to himself as he's reading *Terry Stacey's* post, "Flashbacks playing cards at Paul's back home every time you play this one." Ken continues, "I get it there *Terry*, that song brings you back. Thank you for the compliment, *Mick Manning* says that we all look so fetching." I thought that's a perfect way to describe the vibe this evening. I would say Mr. Grant looked very dapper in his new hat."

8) *KenCon-Original* (played usually weekly) -Barstools And Broken Hearts from the upcoming *Dagg Sessions* 



#### Five Minutes with Mr. Grant

It's getting to the end of the Show so Ken does his usual check in with the Goats. It was Mr. Grants turn, Ken was wondering, "Did you have some kids over last night for Halloween?" Mr. Grant did and gave out the usual candies, cookies but no pot brownies like Ken suggested. Mr. Grant shares something else he did, "I watched some Dylan on the video. I was thinking about a song a week or two ago called I used to care but *Things Have Changed*. I looked it up and realized he won an Academy Award for that song (also a Golden Globe) for having it in the movie Wonder Boys (2000)."

Mr. Grant has become a pro at using YouTube which he wisely calls, "It's become the video library these days I think. Between that and the

Shangri-Las. Man I'm in love with that Mary Weiss in like 1965."



**The Shangri-Las** were (I believe the original) American girl group active in the 1960s.

Mary Weiss was the lead singer, she then vanished from the music scene for decades, returning in 2007 to record her first solo album.



While researching the Shangri-Las I realized OMG they sing **Leader of the Pack** which was a number one pop hit in 1964 and is a popular cultural example of a "teenage tragedy song". I have memories of being a very young girl acting this song out with friends. When the motorcycle revs up, so classic!





"Is she really going out with him? "Well, there she is, let's ask her" "Betty, is that Jimmy's ring you're wearing?"

"Gee, it must be great riding with him" "Is he picking you up after school today?"

"By the way, where did you meet him?"



"Mmm-hmm"

"Mmm-mmm"



"I met him at the candy store He turned around and smiled at me You get the picture" "Yes, we see" "That's when I fell for the leader of the pack"

I haven't used a Ken tuning his guitar photo yet in this article. There's often interesting banter as Ken gets ready for songs. This one will be remembered, "Send us a message, tell Barry how he did. Send us a message and tell Neil how many mistakes he made tonight." Neil was ready with a come back, "Less than you." Lots of 'oohs and awes' by the Goats. Ken then comes up with, wait for it, "That's the new drinking game on The Whiskey Wednesday Show. Every time the band makes a mistake you guys have to take a shot." Mr. Grant suggests, "That's a vicious circle."



9) *KenCon-Cover-Charley Pride* (played occasionally) -Kiss An Angel from Charley Pride Sings Heart Songs album (1971)



#### Three minute closing

Ken is looking up at the TV monitor and then to Barry, "I love these new screens. I'm really digging the way we can get all four of us up there, the new set up looks great. This took so long to get to. Barry I'm not going to change anything for next week. I've been saying that for months but I think this is it, I think we've landed. I've redistributed power so we won't have cameras going out. I counted last week I had 30 things plugged into one outlet. But the first thing out of the outlet was an on/off switch. So that's what I would turn the whole side of the Studio off with. I like to keep my rooms like that because my dad was a fireman. I didn't realize from that one power cord so many branches were coming out. I've redistributed power so everything is working.



**Video Rewind** - *The Devil* (No Dark No Light album) Original Release -April 14th, 2014

Thank you for being here on another Wednesday night with us. Remember it's a wonderful night out there to go skiing if you're somewhere where it snowed otherwise stay inside or just don't go skiing. Be nice, be kind and try to remember to be like Steve.

### Video Rewind

"We have a special treat for you tonight in the Video Rewind section. Tonight we are going to take you back to Mr. Grant's old apartment down on Frank Street. Eric Meyers' massive mansion. It was beautiful. I had gotten my first video camera because I wanted to do videos for the band. It was really interesting because I didn't want to get into synching

audio because I didn't know anything about videography. I thought it would be best to record the audio and the video together. This is the first one I shot on the little Cannon camera, it is called *The Devil* and Dave Fisher is playing drums on it when we were a trio."

*Richard Grechulk* was the first to post in the Clubhouse this evening, "All Request Night. Always a fun night." And the fun started as soon as the Show went 'on air' and 14 year old Ken saw himself on the TV monitor.



Ken, "Look there's my finger, there's Mr. Grant."

#### Episode 45-Wednesday, November 8th 1) Weight Of The World- Ken Tizzard

- 2) This Town Of Mine- Ken Tizzard
- 3) Boots Of Spanish Leather- Bob Dylan
- 4) Tournament Of Hearts- The Weakerthans
- 5) Breakfast in Hell- Slaid Cleaves
- 6) Kiss An Angel- Charley Pride
- 7) Boys Don't Cry- The Cure
- 8) Already Gone- Ken Tizzard
- 9) New England- Billy Bragg
- Video Rewind- Pain Free Living

It was an amazing setlist. Before we get to music an entertaining check in, "Neil how are you doing, I like that tie." He agrees, "It's a nice one, it's subtle. It's kind of cool." Ken points out, "It's got farm animals on it." Neil considers, "Well yes I guess if you farm Canada geese then that's quite true." Ken, "I think we've all farmed Canada geese somewhere." Neil shares, "My neighbors across the river most certainly do. They have a large lawn that slopes gently down to the river. So in the spring time they have anywhere from 70 to 100 of those little rascals up there quacking and pooing." Ken ends with, "Fun combination!"

Ken pretending to be a snake, "My hand goes down, comes up above the microphone and chokes you."

And then Ken turns a switch and becomes a



"late-night host" and the Show officially begins, "Having fun with perspective on The Whiskey Wednesday Show ladies and gentlemen (yes you're not imagining it the camera angles were changed again). My name is Ken Tizzard and we are Music for Goats. Welcome to another episode where we get together to play tunes that we like, sit around this little environment that we have created and hope you enjoy what you hear. And we are very responsive to whatever happens message wise so if you are new to the Show please chime in (a fantastic elevator pitch I would say).

It's All Request Night which means we've got a bunch of songs you all asked for." Neil pointed out, "Some of which we actually know" Ken then announced, "We are going to play a couple of songs tonight that we have never played before."



Two quick observations: Ken recently discovered he enjoys beer with ice; and Neil again looks very well coordinated with his new guitar.

#### 1)KenCon-Original (recently played very regularly)

-Weight Of The World from Between The Lines album (2010)

Requested by Jeff Dall "Weight Of The World is a favourite." Also always dedicated to GT Mike Steenburg.



I love this familiar image, Ken tuning his guitar with a "teenager" smirk on his face and Neil hands on his knees with an annoyed "dad" expression on. This time Ken was very confused with the meaning of two words. You will have to watch the episode to fully understand.

#### Words Of The Week

-Adieu (noun) -French expression of good wishes when someone leaves -Ado (noun) -a state of agitation or fuss, especially about something unimportant <u>Honorable Mention</u>

-Silver-ado (noun) -Chevy pickup truck

Wise Mr. Grant explains, "My nephew always makes that mistake too. Chris if you are listening in, it's like not without further adieu, it's without further ado." Thank you Mr. Grant and Neil I appreciated the clarification too.

#### 2) KenCon-Original (played occasionally) -This Town Of Mine from *Between The Lines* (2010) Requested by *Ron Bissonnette* "For me..This town of Mine"

Captured image...

Ken finishing the song, eyes closed, very content and in the moment he shares his gratefulness list,

"Ahh, nicely done boys, nicely done. Thanks for being such a cool band, good guys to hang out with, for learning all the songs, driving me around, coming to rehearsals, watching movies with me, getting high on the front step." We really do have a very special and unique extended family in the Goats and in our Whiskey Wednesday online community.



#### The Whiskey Wednesday Clubhouse Let's see who's in the Clubhouse with me!

Lots of belated birthday wishes for Barry in the Clubhouse and on the Show, Ken explains, "What's this rumor I hear that you had a birthday ('oh yeah, I had one'). Why don't you ever talk about this stuff ('it gets to a point it's just another day in your life'). I hear you but it's also nice to have a day when people are thinking of you, that's cool." Barry's birthday was on Monday and he appreciated all the birthday wishes.

"This is a new set up that we stumbled into here. Thank you Caitlyn for the new desk that is now property of The Whiskey Wednesday Show."



"It reminds me of when we started upstairs. We used to have that little table that we would all gather around."



"We are all crowded around this. It's got a similar feeling to that."



Other highlights tonight included... Viewers tuning in from all over, "Nice to see you *Dianna (Erbland)* how are things in Torbay, I would like to take a run out, it would be sum nice. *Gillian, 'Ollie* and I are watching from the YMCA Coburg'. Excellent, I hope you're having fun." Steve Astolfo pointed out, "A few newcomers tonight. Welcome All!!"

There was a mini gear talk initiated by *Joe Murray*, "Ken, how do you think that mic compares to a Shure SM58?" Barry replied, "It picks up a lot so not really great live. It's a studio mic. Great sound though." *Joe*, "Thanks Barry. Exactly what I wanted to know." Later in the evening during another song Barry posts, "For instance. Ken's mic is picking up all that snare. I have no control unless I turn Ken's vocal down."

During a check-in Ken noticed, "I see *Deb Parsan* is replying to *Deb Parson* saying you are always away. OK you are talking to yourself there *Deb*. Just so you are aware if nobody's answering back." It does get a little confusing to follow along in the Clubhouse sometimes.

Later in the evening Ken talked directly to viewers, "How's everybody doing, send us a message, tell us what's going on. Does anybody have any news to share, is anyone getting married, or having babies, or grandkids. What else do people do?" *Joe Murray* complied and was happy to share his good news, "Going to Cuba!" Ken read this 'on air' and Neil was wondering if he was sailing his boat down. *Joe* posted, "Neil. No. Fly. Beach. Drink, Beach. Drink. Repeat." Other viewers replied to *Joe, Debbie Parsan* was wondering, "No winter camping?" *Tony Arkell,* "That's my version of winter camping."

The Clubhouse as always had lots of praise for Barry. *Steve Runions,* "Great job Barry. Everything is right on." *Joe Murray* agreed, "Absolutely!" Tony Arkell, "TMTMTL...The Man The Myth The Legend."

#### Will/Should Ken Skate Again?

Two very different questions which Ken will be exploring live on The Whiskey Wednesday Show for how long who knows. Tonight he brought it up twice. The first time he had a theory...



"I've heard about the midlife crisis which I'm pretty sure I went through already. I think what might be happening is a return to youth that happens as you get older. Maybe this is something I should talk to a psychologist about. I have had this reawakened interest in skateboarding like I have never had before. I have always had the interest but it's at the top of my mind.



Ken had another thought, "Also I want to put together a hard-core band, learn 30 of my favourite punk tunes and play some punk rock. I thought that's what I was doing when I was 15 and here I am almost 55 and thinking that's what I want to be doing. At the same time I'm really happy with everything else, it's not like I'm lacking for anything. In fact it could just be a missing piece of something that I need to keep me occupied for the rest of my life. I don't know, it's kind of cool, it's a neat time."

Later in the Show Ken shared this photo, "I put this up (on Facebook) yesterday to see what the reaction would be. It's just a dream, it's in my head. I have no reason to be on a skateboard of any sort but it has



created an amazing conversation." Neil pointed out, "Particularly between Ken and Allison." To which Ken replied, "Allison is so supportive but she is also so afraid of me getting hurt. There are a lot of other people my age having this revised passion for skateboarding." Neil asked him to name one person. Ken had an answer, "Eric (from Spiritleaf) reached out to me after. He owns a pot store and skateboards, OK I like him already. Anyways it's a new thing, it's fun for the mind and I'm not doing anything right now."

The Clubhouse had a few thoughts, *Richard Grechulk*, "What are people thinking of Ken getting back on the skateboard?" *Gillian Lucy*, "Yes sir!! from *Ollie* (Neil's grandson)." *Ron Bissonnette*, "Skateboard incidents will take long to heal." *Debbie Parsan,* "Let's Pray for Pastor Ken!" *Tony Arkell,* "Gonna need a lot of bubble wrap." And then later added, "I tried out a motorized longboard this summer and I'm here to tell the story." *Andrew Irving Music,* " Hey buddy! Hope you're all doing well. I just started skating again last year love it."

3)KenCon-Bob Dylan (played rarely) -Boots of Spanish Leather from *The Times They Are a-Changin*' album (1964) Requested by *Jeannie Tench* "Boots of Spanish Leather would be my pick."

### Throwback from the January, 2023 Whiskey Wednesday Wrap-Up newsletter

The Show is starting to wind down with the last three songs of the evening. Ken, "I like this one, **Spanish Boots Of Spanish Leather**. It goes like this." A true storytelling song. After, Ken, "One of my favorite songs, 9 verses. I like how it sounds like a call and answer. Somebody sailing away, somebody responding to the letter. It's a back-and-forth through their whole relationship. But that's my own interpretation." I love this image. I thought I would do a little research...

A ballad in the form of a dialogue between two lovers. One of them, the woman, goes away on a long journey across the sea, during the first six verses the pair go back and forth as she warns him she "might be gone a long old time." The last three are all spoken by the man who has been left behind and is slowly witnessing the relationship crumbling. When she writes him a letter saying she may never come back, he requests a gift to remember his love by "Spanish boots of Spanish leather."

Ken had lots to say before and after the next song, "It is Canadian bowling time of year and with that it means we have to play some Weakerthans. There is nothing wrong with playing some Weakerthans they are a fantastic band. I do a pretty good job of their song, I think I'm pretty well representing them. No, I'm just kidding, we have had several versions of this song none of them are anything like the Weakerthans version. Great band."



4)KenCon-Cover-The Weakerthans (played occasionally) -Tournament of Hearts from the *Reunion Tour* album (2007) Requested by *Jeremie Robin* for his brother *Chris* 



"There you go, thanks to David putting that into his hat and learning it. That's a new one for David and it's coming together quite nicely. I love the Weakerthans, it's great to represent Winnipeg my other hometown. I am realizing when I come home to St. John's and to Winnipeg, both of those places have a hometown feeling for me to do solo shows, house concerts. But I've always gone back to Newfoundland with the band. So for those of you in Winnipeg let's look at getting the band out there for a night. Let's find a venue and put it together. Get thinking about it Winnipeg." Let's see what 2024 brings!

5) KenCon-Cover-Slaid Cleaves (1st time playing) -**Breakfast In Hell** from the *Broke Down* album (2000) Dedicated to me as a surprise!

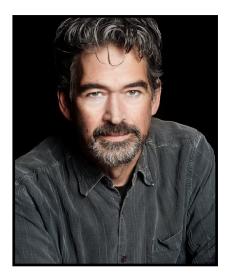
"When I was putting together the set, Allison loves this song, I love this song, I have been meaning to learn it for a long time. It's got a pretty repetitive form, it's a really nice song story. It has a lot of Canadian references in it even though it was written by an American a gentleman by the name of Slaid Cleaves. Never played this before and we are going to do it a little different of course because I am not Slaid but I recommend going and listening to Slaid Cleaves. I hope I don't disrespect his name with my vocal performance. I know the guys will get it because they are great. It's a song called *Breakfast In Hell* and it goes like this."



From the University of Maine Folklife Center, from a storyteller in 1957...The origins of this story are difficult to pin down. Sayings that relate hell and breakfast are old and widespread enough to suggest that the utterance central to this story was once in common usage and has been lost over time. For other examples of this relation, General Sherman's famous comment on reporters, "I hate newspapermen... If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast." Or the saying "from Hell to breakfast," which refers to a great distance.

In the story heard here, the central character Sandy Gray, when faced with a logjam early in the morning, claims he will break the jam or eat his breakfast in Hell and is subsequently killed when the jam breaks. This story probably has some truth behind it. Sandy Gray Falls, located on Musquash River, just west of Gray Lake in Ontario, was named for the driver after he died there. Accounts from early in the twentieth century claimed there was a grave just a mile from the falls where his body was pulled from the river, and some claim the area is haunted by his ghost. The legend of Sandy Gray has even been immortalized recently by singer-songwriter Slaid Cleaves in his song "Breakfast in Hell."

"There you go a brand new Slaid Cleaves one. Our first time, we are still learning it. We will get that one better next time, don't tell Slaid about that one it will disappear after tonight. We will get it next time even better. Once we get it we tell people about it. It doesn't exist unless you watch it on Wednesday night, shhh." These moments are special. Thanks Ken and the Goats, I do absolutely love this song. I predict it will become a viewer favourite. It's such a strong narrative song you really become familiar with the characters and story. Similar to *My Father's Ghost* another fan favourite.



I'm going to share my own Slaid Cleaves somewhat "related" story. I'm going to take you back to October 2014. Ken and I traveled to Syracuse NY to watch Slaid Cleaves perform for the first time for both of us. We were huge fans, the show was fantastic.

This weekend was very significant. You know when they say a moment changes your life forever, this was ours.

### Throwback

From the July, 2023 Wrap-Up Music Magazine



This was the week that I experienced my first MS symptom. The girls and I walked to school most days and I was experiencing what I now know is "foot drop." My left leg would drag. Seven months of testing, seeing specialists with the final diagnosis of MS in May of 2015. Crazy to think I'm coming up to eight years.

**Slaid Cleaves** is an American singer-songwriter born in Washington, D.C. from his website... "Grew up in Maine. Lives in Texas. Writes songs. Makes records. Travels around. Tries to be good. Joseph Hudak of Rolling Stone calls Cleaves "a master storyteller, one influenced not by the shine of pop-culture but by the dirt of real life." Ken's Show & Tell from this evening combined with my vision board... Welcome to Allison's Secret Garden



"The concrete was starting to give way, those steps are pretty useless, we were thinking of leveling everything and putting in a ramp or lift for Allison but we had a different idea." We have never used this side porch in the 23 years we have lived here. Interestingly it was a very popular spot about 125 years ago, Iol. The well that provided water for our street was where the arrow is pointing. We had a hole here for many years, it was filled with concrete when we did the driveway a few years ago. Imagine neighbors gathering around the well to get water. How cool is that!





**Part I-Secret Door** This is not officially part of my Secret Garden but it's right next door. Plus it's a "secret door" down to the basement.



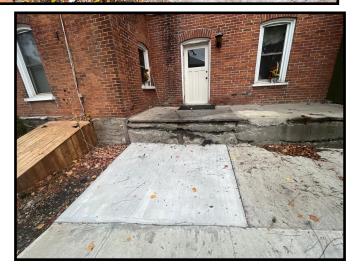


Part 2-Concrete Stairs No More

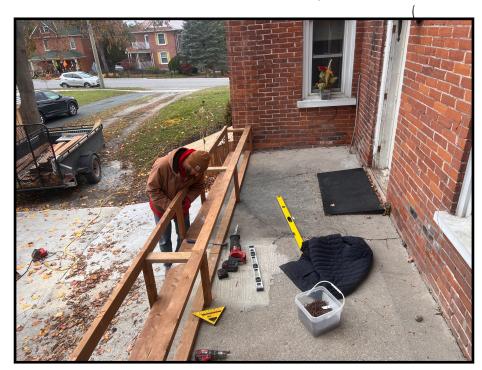
This is Josh Cork the very talented man we hired to make my vision come true. I actually did not even envision this. When he came out to quote he suggested building a proper door. When Ken took this photo of Josh I thought it was almost done. Nope, look at the finishing work, there is no ugly concrete in sight.







Part 3-The Secret Garden is starting to be built...



On day one they built the foundation.







Are you curious what's on my side of the fence?

"We've got these three long planter boxes about 2 feet deep and about 5 or 6 feet long. This photo was taken from the vantage of the door where her bedroom (living room) is. So she can go right out from her bedroom and wheel right into the boxes and do her gardening in the summer. We are really excited about that."



A beautifully finished piece of art is on the other side! Specially designed planter boxes just for me. Yes my wheelchair fits comfortably underneath. Josh was saying it's too bad it's not the spring so I could use them right away. I said no problem I get to dream about it all winter long. What will I plant in these massive boxes?



This space is a totally blank slate. My vision is an old Italian garden with all the brick and wood. Imagine in this corner a little bistro table with two folding chairs for when I have guests visiting me for a tea or lemonade. Ken can

come out and pick (also at his height too) tomatoes and basil for his famous spaghetti sauce and I can cut flowers to put on the table. I dreamt it and it's so close to being a realty!





We planted 30 more Dahlia May tulip bulbs around the tree and we think we planted Shasta daisies by the basement door. We are not sure so we will be surprised as well to see what comes up in the spring.



"There it is now on the left. Josh matched it to the fence work we had done a couple years ago. Now we have the big fence there so you can't see the deck, it's semi private for Allison. Josh Cork is a pretty cool guy and does amazing work. The crowd he brought over were just fantastic.

I'm excited Allison has some gardening to do in the spring, summer and fall. I hope she doesn't start winter gardening. *Dianna (Erbland)* is saying it's time to plant bulbs. You are incredibly right all the bulbs are in. How many bulbs did we plant this year? I don't remember how many bulbs planted, you see if I'm going to tell the story it was 2000." In reality we planted just over 200 bulbs in three gardens...

Alliums... Daffodils... Dutch Irises... English Bluebells... Hyacinths... Tulips...

#### Five Minutes with Mr. Grant

Ken saying lovely things about the fanzine led to Five Minutes with Mr. Grant. "If you did not get the magazine last week go check it out. It's a really, really nice one, Allison does such a great job on these. I think a part of her malaise the last couple of days is that she has nothing to write about." Ken is correct I was out of sorts. It takes me a few days after the fanzine deadline to figure out where I go next. I am happy when Wednesday comes along and I can start writing again. Ken continues, "We have to give her some facts Mr. Grant. She loved that thing you said about the Shangri-Las. You mentioned that and Allison went down a huge rabbit hole. What's another piece of nugget for her, what have you found on the old YouTube that you've liked?"









Mr. Grant in his wise Gandalf voice shares, "I have to mention Robbie Robertson. We can't let the whole year go by, we talked about Gordon Lightfoot, Jimmy Buffett, Robbie Robertson is right up there. That's a big loss to the planet. He really took rock music to another level. Man with those lyrics, he wrote like nobody else and played guitar."

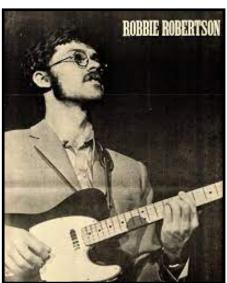
Ken reflects, "I missed the Robbie thing. I was in the wrong generation. I knew who he was and of course when he had that solo hit in the late 80s, with the song *Somewhere Down the Crazy River*. Of course when that came out it was everywhere but you know so much more about him."

Mr. Grant, "I'm talking 1968, 69, those first two Band albums. It was them and the Beatles, listening everyday, that's what kept me alive. Man he wrote like nobody else." And then we get treated to a lyric recitation, "For example, 'if I were a barker in a girly show, tell ya what I'd do, I'd lock the door, tear my shirt, and let my river flow' (from *Jemima Surrender*). I often wondered what my dad was thinking sitting there listening to that as I played that record over and over again."

**Robbie Robertson** was a Canadian musician. He was lead guitarist for Bob Dylan in the mid-late 1960s/1970s, guitarist and songwriter with the Band and a solo artist. He is ranked 59th in *Rolling Stone* magazine's list of the 100 greatest guitarists.



**The Band** was a Canadian-American rock band formed in Toronto in 1967. Between 1958 and 1963, the group was known as the Hawks, a backing band for rockabilly singer Ronnie Hawkins. In the mid-1960s, they gained recognition for backing Bob Dylan and the 1966 concert tour was notable as Dylan's first with an electric band. After leaving Dylan they changed their name to "The Band" and were instrumental in creating the Americana music genre.



#### 6)KenCon-Cover-Charley Pride (played regularly)

-Kiss An Angel from *Charley Pride Sings Heart Songs* album (1971) Requested by *Debbie Parsan* "I guess you already know MINE? LOL"



7)KenCon-Cover-The Cure (played occasionally)

**-Boys Don't Cry** from *Charley Pride Sings Heart Songs* album (1971) Requested by *Jeremie Robin* "The Cure for me."

After *Boys Don't Cry* Ken shares, "Very nice (Mr. Grant, 'that was fun'), yes we played that on Monday night (weekly band dinner followed by rehearsal) and we got to the end and I was like 'oh yeah there is an actual drum end for that, so take a listen to it'. So that's a brand new one for David as well.



It's been a moment since Steve passed and I haven't really mentioned it. I saw Kim at the grocery store today. Not that I don't think about Steve all the time. A part of the process that we are all going through, discussing when we need to, going through our own personal stuff with it as well. I don't think there is any right or wrong way. I just wanted to say his name tonight. I saw Kim at the grocery store like I said, it was nice to get back in touch with her and the kids. Charlie (Kim and Steve's dog, who Neil dog sits quite often) was here the other night, he slept on the couch with me while we watched TV, it was great."

Ken then reflects on Dave's time behind the kit on Wednesday nights, "In these six months we have glossed over 100 plus tunes. We've got a good 40 that you are familiar with and it's great. It's getting to the point that we can throw stuff at you on Monday night rehearsals. That's the beauty of Wednesday's we are often doing songs that we do once every couple of months. It's nice to be able to throw them at you and you know what we're doing. It takes a lot of time, it's feeling good."



#### 8) KenCon-Original (4th performance)

-Already Gone from some future album Requested by Ken himself

Tonight we find out the inspiration behind their newest song, "This is a brand new one that we are just learning. I was debating whether I get into the meaning behind this song, it's really new to me. I think it is a song for a lot of my friends Dean, Johnny, Rod, Jackie a lot of people who have passed on in the last few years (these names are very familiar to the Whiskey Wednesday Community).



I won't hear you calling on the telephone I'm **Already Gone** 

I've been listening to the Clash record playing and I'm scratching at my head and saying where have all the good times gone I won't hear you calling on the telephone I'm **Already Gone**  People from my age group who I thought would be around later then they were. There's been a few times where I have reached for the phone, 'oh yeah they're not there, I should have spent more time with them'. That was the spark that inspired this tune.

The three verses are all different but they are also highly connected in my head. OFF! and Idles that I mention in the song are bands if you don't happen to know."

After performance, "There you go, I'm really starting to dig that one. That song has a lot of something for me."

#### 9) KenCon-Cover-Billy Bragg (played rarely)

**-New England** from *Life's a Riot with Spy vs Spy* album (1983) Requested by *Richard Grechulk* 

"We are going to end with a song that these guys have never done before. I used to do it along time ago and haven't done it in a while. We are going to do it for you right now, it's a Billy Bragg tune. It was requested by (starts searching through song sheets) I've lost my setlist. I haven't lost it I have 'folded' it in here somewhere. See how I used the word 'folded' I love that word. Brian Finley used that in a lyric once, he was talking about somebody hugging, he said he 'folded' them into his arms. That's just forking beautiful." Mr. Grant had a different definition, "That's also a cooking term."

Let's all agree 'folded' basically means 'misplaced' when Ken is using this word. The Goats sounded great for the first time doing New England and as Ken said himself, "A very rock 'n' roll ending!"

**Billy Bragg** is an English singer-songwriter and left-wing activist. His music blends elements of folk music, punk rock and protest songs, with lyrics that mostly span political or romantic themes. His music is heavily centered on bringing about change and involving the younger generation in activist causes. At 65 he is still actively touring.



A New England was released in 1983. The opening lines of the song ("I was 21 years when I wrote this song/I'm 22 now, but I won't be for long") are identical to the opening lines of Paul Simon's 1966 song Leaves That Are Green. Bragg has stated Simon and Garfunkel had a strong influence on him. Bragg has said the song had its origins in seeing two satellites flying alongside each other. Searching for romantic inspiration, he had to make do with "space hardware". He told a BBC interviewer he "stole" the melody from Thin Lizzy's "Cowboy Song".





WWW.KENTIZZARD.COM



Ken had an exciting announcement, "Look at this (referring to poster) Capers Tap House, an escape from the ordinary, music, food and dancing. 7 to 9 PM, January through May, every single Monday. There is a little bit there about goats who are social creatures normally found in groups and it is recommended that they are not kept in isolation, at least for any length of time. Once formed, the group social structure can last for years. I think a lot of us know that from the Wednesday gang, from the Whiskey Wednesday we used to do at the pub. I'm hoping for these four months we can have a really good time getting together every Monday night down at Capers. It's a tiny room so if you're coming, especially if you are driving from out of town, make sure you call and reserve yourself a seat. Spiritleaf is across the street so you can buy some of your finest herb. It's going to be great, they are going to get a nice Monday night menu."

It took Ken a surprisingly long time to come up with what I would agree is the perfect title, The Monday Nights. Is it a day of the week, a band name, what is it? I would answer a fabulous night out on a cold winter night. And I completely relate, I cannot start an article until I have the title. No thinking required for the All Request Evening.





#### Three minute closing



"Next week we have Kirby Lambert which I'm excited about.

Barry these new overlays are looking great, they are just popping, everything is looking spectacular." I agree Barry is doing a fantastic job with the banners. Regulars may have noticed 'Next Week' is always up-to-date that's because we now bypass Ken. On Wednesday's Ken and I have a "production meeting" at the kitchen table. Ken gives me the setlist, I add talking points and send it out to the Goats. It's now Barry's job to let us know what's coming up Next Week.



"I think there is a little too much light over Dave and G but that could also be the TV. I'll take a look and see"



"Neil is looking smaller back there we might need you to move up a little bit, we'll work on that."

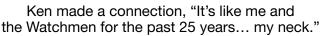


If Neil moves forward Mr. Grant was wondering, "Then I'll be able to see you." I love this photo, let's look at everybody's expressions... Dave as always is smiling and enjoying the entertainment;

Mr. Grant is leaning forward because it's the only way he can see Neil; Ken has his 14-year-old smirk on; and Neil looks justifiably annoyed. I shall explain. Ken loves the new desk and I must say he looks like a proper "late night host" behind it however there needs to be adjustments. Neil and Mr. Grant could not see past Ken. I agree it's very awkward to be talking to somebody and not be able to look at them except on the TV monitor.

The Promo Shot (a Seinfeld inspired skit)









"And then all of a sudden before I know it, Sammy, boom, right in front of me."

"They are like, OK everybody get into scene (position)."



"There I am with my neck turned again. You think I'm lying, check out all of our promo shots for 30 years. It's not on purpose, I don't think (lol)."



Ken wraps up, "Guys thank you so much. Ladies and gentlemen as always remember be cool out there. I was going through the Tim Hortons drive-thru the other day, as I was passing back the ATM reader she said, 'have a nice day, you look fabulous by the way'. And I kind of went what a weird thing to say and then I drove away, 'ah that made me feel great'. I look fabulous today, that's wonderful. It made me happy for the whole morning. Tell somebody on the street they look fabulous, I'm sure they will appreciate it. And if you can't do that Be Like Steve."



#### Video Rewind

"The Video Rewind tonight is *Pain Free Living* not a huge thing in the way of a rewind, it makes sense because it was requested. Also I love the video, we've only showed it once maybe twice on the Show."

Video Rewind - Pain Free Living (from the Dagg Sessions) Original Release -September 18th, 2023

Song requested by Jeremie Robin (a busy night his 3rd) "And, of course, Pain Free Living for us all!"

You know how I believe that the universe looks out for us. Well today it did, Ken seeing Kim in the grocery store and all of us seeing Kim having so much fun in the *Pain Free Living* video. This felt like a night to remember and celebrate Steve and Kim.



### When Life Gives You Limes

Every six episodes or so Ken and the Goats have a special, 'one for the books' kind of Show and to me this evening was one of those. Interestingly Ken felt it was just a "regular" Wednesday night. I will say the title for this article came to me instantly, you'll have to wait to find out what Ken does **When Life Gives You Limes.** 



Episode 46-Wednesday, November 15th

Dollar A Day- Ken Tizzard

2) Green Mountains- Slaid Cleaves
3) Don't Think Twice- Bob Dylan
4) Whatta Ya At? Kirby Lambert
5) Already Gone- Ken Tizzard
6) Over You- Ken Tizzard

- 7) Breakfast in Hell- Slaid Cleaves
- 8) Home- Ken Tizzard
- Video Rewind- Devils and Dust

Tonight's Show started very similar to last weeks, "How's everybody doing? We've changed the cameras a little bit again, we have Neil so he doesn't look so miniature in the back there like he did last week." This time Mr. Grant played along with Ken, "And I still think I can reach over this way, my hand will disappear and then (they both deserve an Oscar for their reactions). We are getting closer and closer all the time ladies and gentlemen. I hope everybody's doing well. It's The Whiskey Wednesday Show my name is Ken Tizzard, we are Music for Goats, we are your hosts for the evening to take you away from whatever is bothering you."





He went around the room to see if there was anything bothering the Goats, Neil had a concern, "The only thing bothering me is the proximity of your guitar headstock." Ken was sympathetic, "Yeah well you'll get used to that." Neil has a plan, "I may be wearing a hockey helmet next week." Ken demonstrates, "It's not as close as it looks." Neil begs to differ, "Oh yes it is." Ken might be changing his opinion, "I could knock a couple of your teeth out."

### When Life Gives You Limes

Ken explains his unorthodox way to drink a beer, "I am back on the Longtooth larger once again, it's sum yummy." Mr. Grant was curious about the ice in his beer glass, Ken, "I kept forgetting to put my beer in the fridge so I started putting it on ice over the summer. I really got used to it and now I love it (at this point you can hear the familiar sound of a new beer can being opened). Now I'm not even putting the beer in the fridge. This is the second week Barry has showed up, 'shoot Barry I'm sorry I didn't put any beer in the fridge again because I drink it on ice and you're like, that's forking gross, I'll have a warm one thanks'."



#### The Whiskey Wednesday Clubhouse

Let's see who's in the Clubhouse with me!



The boys have all got quite comfortable around the new "late night host desk" in the Broadcast Studio and as you can see Neil and Mr. Grant can see each other now. The Clubhouse iPad sits on the desk and both Ken and Neil can now check in with viewers. The highlights this evening...

Ken checks in, "*Ron Bissonnette* is on, he's saying, 'cough cough..hi Goats.' Either he has a cold or he's just having a puff getting ready for Wednesday night." *Ron* posted a follow up, "Coughing from my basket of goodies...lol." He was also excited to share, "Anyone else spotted the Screaming Goat?...I just did.."

Back to Ken, "Where's Aunt Betty, I'm not sure. Covid has got ugly. Oh no, *Jeannie (Tench)* Covid has got you for round 3. That sucks." Neil was excited to see a familiar name pop-up on the iPad screen, "Oh there she is." Ken, "Hey Aunt Betty how are you doing, good to see you love, hope everybody back home is fine."

I'm glad Aunt Betty showed up we had another regular Clubhouse member, *Deb Parson* MIA this evening. *Tony Arkell* sent out the search party, "Nothing from dp?!?" Ron Bissonnette, "Weird?" Steve Astolfo shares, "Got a message from her earlier, but no word on why she isn't here." *Tony Arkell,* "Yup. We were messengering earlier." *Steve Astolfo* concludes, "Hopefully all is well and she's having a good time." I am happy to report the next morning I had Ken message *Deb*, all was well. At the last minute she had to help her neighbor and missed the Show for the first time in years.

*Rod Nolan* was inquiring, "Quite a while ago you mentioned taking on a Tyler Childers song... wondering if it ever went anywhere?" Cassidy our youngest was also tuned in this evening and she is curious about the same thing. She's a huge fan, Ken actually introduced Tyler Childers to Cassidy. Can you believe he saw Childers years ago in Nashville in a tiny club. We are all fans here in the house. The girls are going to see him in Toronto next summer. Ken has not "taken on" Childers yet but I'm on it and you can look forward to a Goats version in the new year.

Ken was happy when he saw this request, "Scott Noftall's, 'Already Gone' it's the first time we've got a request for *Already Gone.* We are going to do that one tonight on the Show for you Scott, thank you."

### When Life Gives You Limes

() KenCon-Original (played often)
 -Dollar A Day from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

#### 2) KenCon-Cover-Slaid Cleaves (played rarely)

-Green Mountains from the Everything You Love Will Be Taken Away album (2009)

"We did just celebrate Remembrance Day, it always makes me think this time of year and I thought we could represent it with a Slaid Cleaves song. A song called *Green Mountains* that we play from time to time. It seems like a totally appropriate time to play it." By the way, celebrating Remembrance Day was my idea, I just can't stop thinking like a kindergarten teacher. I have done my fair share of 'poppy' art!

**Green Mountains and Me** exemplifies Slaid's narrative story telling and is one of my favourites. This song tells the heartbreaking story of a woman (or I actually hear a man) made a widow by war. It could be today or it could be a hundred years ago, the sentiment remains the same.



I see a car winding up the driveway Up to your parents' place The old man looks up from his raking As the color drains from your mama's face Cryin' softly by the window now While your daddy shakes the soldiers hands Their taillights disappear into the woods below He's frozen in the doorway where he stands

"People on the street used to stop and chat / Now they look down and walk on by..." Amazing lyrics, the isolation and loneliness of grief in two lines.

#### 3) KenCon-Bob Dylan (played occasionally)

-Don't Think Twice, It's All Right from the *Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* album (1963) Requested by *Joe Murray* "Maybe a little Don't think twice?" (a carryover from last week's All Request Evening)

After the song, "That was fun, sorry for the self indulgent double solo. Neither of them particularly worthy of existing, you've got to try these things. Monday night I was on fire, I don't know what happened, everything was amazing. Then Wednesday night comes and I think I better not get too stoned and then look what happens my playing suffers. Who's fault is that Neil?" While Ken is talking he is taking off his guitar and he reveals something that he doesn't mean to.

Ken looks up at the TV monitor and notices,

"I'm just realizing my shirt is really open, sorry, wow Fabio over here with the hair and open shirt."



# 4) whatta ya at? With Kirby Lambert

Ken's introduction, "We have Kirby on the Show. This is the knife that I had made for Neil for Christmas. Isn't it lovely."





"It's only about this big (photo left) and it's sharp as anything."





"I just want to see if I can cut through a lime. OMG, look at this lime, look at the juice coming out of it. You see this lime, look at it here folks, I'm going to take you into my world a little bit." He then shares a photo on his phone which you can't really see very clearly. "Can I cut this lime Neil?" He responds probably. Ken clarifies, "I know, not can I, do you mind?" Neil did not mind and Ken did a live demonstration.





So I had Ken take these photos, here is our lime tree in all her glory. "In my bedroom next to my bed lives a massive lime tree. about 6 feet tall. It makes these friggin limes. I wanted to show you that one before we get into the whole life of Kirby."





And with that the Kirby Lambert whatta ya at? video began. You can find Lambert's Forged In Fire article on page 71.





Limes were still the hot topic when returning live 'on air' after the interview video. "I am still blown away by the lime, it tastes so limey. I was going to take the rest off. I was going to say there's about 100 limes (wow showing constraint) there is about 30. I'm going to keep the rest on, see if I can keep growing fruit in my bedroom. I know there's something weird in that whole idea of growing fruit in my bedroom."

Mr. Grant has a creative idea, here is his sales pitch, "I think they are for sale, 25 bucks a lime if anybody wants one, plus shipping." Mr. Grant may have a very good idea with the price of groceries. Ken resisted buying a \$32 watermelon in the summer, yikes! 38

#### 5) KenCon-Original (5th performance)

-Already Gone from some future album

"Steve (actually Scott) you were hoping to hear *Already Gone*. Let's give that one a try, it's a new one. I quite like this one actually, I'm not even going to talk about it. I've been talking about it for the past couple weeks. It's kind of groovy. I hope you like ladies and gentleman, it is called *Already Gone*."

Ken couldn't resist talking about it after the performance, "There you go a new song called *Already Gone*. That is such a friggin new song. Do you know how I know that I really like it because the words are..." Mr. Grant finishes Ken's sentence, "They are 'already there'." And Neil added, "They haven't 'already gone'." Ken continues, "There are songs that I wrote back in Ottawa that I'm still working on. I haven't committed the lyrics yet. That one came out and boom there it was."



This time 14 year old Ken was excited to talk about limes, "Limes are so weird. I put lime in my beer so I'm reminded of the lime every time I drink my beer. This night is all about limes. Man look at how green it is, it's like it has batteries in it." Ken then uses the lime as a prop holding it up, "There's my nose."



"Ok let's see what it's like as Neil's nose." Lots of laughter and Ken's signature giggle with a couple of snorts thrown in. For some reason this made me think of Olaf which btw is a much loved movie by all the girls in our house.



"Just for a split second it was perfect. Sorry folks." Neil was quick with a come-back, "Folks, you should be apologizing to me." A very dramatic pause through laughter and Ken replies, "Not a chance (of apologizing)."

With all this talk of limes it reminded me of... **Coconut** is a novelty song written and first recorded by American singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson, released in 1971. It was on the U.S. *Billboard* charts for 14 weeks, reaching #8. *Coconut* did best in Canada, where it peaked at #5.

The lyrics feature Nilsson singing three characters (a narrator, a woman, and a doctor), each in a different voice. The woman drinks a mixture of lime juice and coconut milk, becomes sick, and calls the doctor. The doctor, annoyed at being woken up, tells her to drink the same thing again and call in the morning. This is another song that I remember dancing to as a really young girl.

"She put de lime in de coconut, she drank 'em bot' up"



6) KenCon-Original (played often) -Over You from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

Ken shares, "Cassidy's lizard is doing well, he has gained more weight. He is now a chubby little bugger. Cassidy's best friend who hangs out with her all the time." Our daughters often tune in to watch their dad on Wednesday nights. Cassidy posted in the Clubhouse for the very first time, she felt she needed to defend Rango, "Hey he's not chubby." But she would be the first to agree he is the best pet and keeps her company while at school.



7) KenCon-Cover-Slaid Cleaves (2nd time playing) -Breakfast In Hell from the Broke Down album (2000)

"I'm going to end the night with a Slaid Cleaves song called *Breakfast In Hell.* We did it last week, I thought I would throw it at the guys and see how it sounded and I enjoyed it. I think we are going to move it into a semi regular place (rotation). If we do I'm going to have to learn the lyrics, there's like 18 verses (under exaggerated, there are 20), which is fantastic, a lot of fun. We started the Show tonight with *Green Mountains* which is a Slaid Cleaves song. We are going to tackle another one of his." Neil brought up tonight's 'hot topic' this time, "They are called green mountains because they grow limes there." Ken had a special dedication, "*Steve Runions* has been in the hospital for a bit, he's on the road to recovery. Sending this one out to *Stevie* tonight."





#### A Whiskey Wednesday Encore







The Show was not done, tonight there was an encore, "It's 9:14 ladies and gentlemen I am thinking of playing *Home*, I'm just going to do this one on my own guys if that's OK. I'm going to send this one out to a few folks tonight. I've been thinking a lot about my old teenage high school gang, Catherine and Clark and Danny and Kim, Dean and all those folks. It's a really interesting time of life. Maybe this is the midlife crisis thing people talk about. It's not making me want to buy a fast car or find a younger woman." I guess I should be grateful for this, Iol. I can't believe Neil suggested, "Just get a skateboard."

Ken continues the dedication, "Clark is probably over in the desert or down in Thailand, I'm going to send this one especially to Clark tonight with a thought to everyone back home."

8) KenCon-Original (played often) -Home from the *No Dark No Light* album (2015)

Barry was creative with camera angles during Ken's solo encore performance.

More reflecting after the song, "Well ladies and gentlemen that wraps up the Show. Sorry we took a extra couple of minutes more than usual I just felt like throwing that one back. I think I mentioned it last week too I have been having dreams about skateboarding. The one thing that is constant in so many of these dreams is, as I am skating I'm seeing Clark on one side of me with his long blue shirt he used to wear over a wife beater T-shirt (horrible name). His blue shirt which was always blowing behind him with his big blonde hair. Always on either side of me. It's really got me thinking how much time Clark and I spent together as kids. Man I do forking miss that guy. I hope you're having fun on the other side of the world brother I look forward to seeing you again one day. And to everybody out there who hasn't called a friend in a long time pick up the phone."

Joe Murray sometimes says goodbye and leaves just before the end of the Show. During this song he posted, "Home!" To which *Tony Arkell* replied, "Knew u were still here!" *Joe*, "Awesome! Thanks Ken. Perfect choice!" I'm so glad *Joe* did not miss what I believe is tied with *Waste Your Time* for his favourite Ken Tizzard songs.

### Three minute closing



Ken starts wrapping up the Show, "Neil thanks for coming out and dressing so dapper tonight. It looks like you have been out hiking the world."



Neil, "Well thank you very much. I dressed in honor of the lime of course."



Ken acknowledges, "Yes I noticed, we should all be dressing in honor of the lime. I think there is green under my hat, see."



"Mr. Grant where is your green?" "I've got my green shoes on."



"Dave you are looking strikingly out of green." And with that it is the official end of all things lime this evening.

### Video Rewind



Ken switched up the order and did the Video Rewind and came back to do his final closing, "Again in response to a day of remembering we are going to do a Video Rewind of *Devils and Dust* from I think 1907."

**Video Rewind** - *Devils and Dust* (Springsteen Cover) Original Release -August 19th, 2020

The Clubhouse loved this evenings 'throwback' video. *Tony Arkell* asked, "*Richard Grechulk* u sticking around for the way back playback? One of ur favs." He replied, "Definitely even though it's a school night (he is a teacher, not sure what grade)." *Tony* during the performance, "Harmonica included version! Can you handle it *Rich?*" *Steve Astolfo* noticed, "That tree out the window is swaying so majestically!!"



"It's been a wonderful night, guys thanks for coming out. I really appreciate every part of Wednesday night. I'm looking a little sideways at the camera as some of you may have noticed it's not exactly straight. The room kind of feels like it's falling over a little bit. It looks like I'm trying to hold onto the bookcase. Sometimes it gets out of hand (I think he meant to say I get really distracted), I just forget that this is going out 'live' to the world forever. Not that anyone's watching (he's not referring to the Clubhouse of course).

But those of you who are here thank you so much, a fun little outro here at the end. This is what happens when you mix edibles. Take care ladies and gentlemen, be nice, be kind and if you are in Sharpe's (grocery store) parking lot be really kind. There is only about 10 parking spots because they're fixing the parking lot. It's going to look great, it's going to be so good (wait for it) for skateboarding in, the new concrete they're putting in. I'm so excited, thanks Steve and the other Sharpe's for getting me new concrete to practice my skateboarding. Be nice, be friendly, be kind and remember if you can't be anything else, Be Like Steve."





Ken had a story ready and waiting as the opening video ends and we hear Barry say 'and you're on', "I was just saying there are two mistakes in that (opening) trailer. I'm acknowledging them fully and completely. It's too much for one person to do, thank God the band is here for the music. I remember there was a reporter out of the States, I had sent out a link to a video, there was a spelling mistake in the crediting. She called me out online and said if you're going to be sending this out to publicists here is an example of what not to do.

My response to her was, these are the hats that I'm currently wearing, engineer, producer, mixer, writer, creator, composer, arranger, videographer, photographer and onwards (I will add full-time caregiver for me). I listed off the 70 things that I do in the run of a day as a musician and I said please forgive me if I make a mistake here and there. The social media tide turned on her, she ended up issuing an apology to me. It was kind of nice. She actually apologized to all musicians, she acknowledged how much we do." It is amazing to realize how much musicians have to do. I guess I won't be 'calling Ken out' anymore either. In reality I know there are many grammatical and spelling mistakes in this fanzine.

# - *The Watchmen* (from a fans perspective)

Ken's words from Facebook, "This evening on The Whiskey Wednesday Show we revisit The Watchmen show through a fan perspective... also Gary Louris doing "Save It For A Rainy Day"... and as a special treat we will play all new tunes from The Dagg Sessions... hear what we have been up to with new music..."

Ken summarized tonight's Show perfectly, this evening was all about music with some good news to share.

Episode 47-Wednesday, November 22nd 1) Morrissey- Ken Tizzard

- 2) Good In Goodbye- Ken Tizzard
- 3) FMNL/Pain Free Living- Ken Tizzard
- 4) Dollar A Day- Ken Tizzard
- 5) The Watchmen Video (Live from the Danforth)
- 6) Already Gone- Ken Tizzard
- 7) End Of The World- Ken Tizzard
- 8) Over You- Ken Tizzard
- 9) Barstools And Broken Hearts- Ken Tizzard

Video Rewind- Save It For A Rainy Day



Fun fact when I first started the Whiskey Wednesday Wrap-Up Newsletter (January 2022) I used to have Charmaine, next-door neighbour and regular viewer, be my official editor. My first five newsletters averaged 10 pages each. My last five fanzines averaged 90 pages each. You can probably figure out I relieved Charmaine of her editing duties months ago. It's all up to Ken and I, we try our best and I accept what is. 44

# 1) KenCon-Original (played often)

-Morrissey from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

The first song of the evening had a special dedication, "It's Eric from Spiritleaf birthday today, he doesn't look 62 to me, cheers happy birthday." Eric was tuned in on vacation in the Dominican and appreciated the shout out. *Richard Grechulk* approved, "Morrissey always is a great opener."

#### 2) KenCon-Original (played often)

-Good In Goodbye from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

"We are now going to play a song called *Good In Goodbye.* For tonight we are going to try to get through the whole record of the Dagg Sessions."

#### 3) KenCon-Original (played often) -Pain Free Living from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

4) KenCon-Original (played often) -Dollar A Day from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

# The Whiskey Wednesday Clubhouse

Let's see who's in the Clubhouse with me!

Ken checks in, "Nice to see everybody here. Anybody new here? *Mike Arthur* 'first time watcher, just happened to have a whiskey'. Thank you very much Mike, I'm glad you dropped in. I hope you enjoy the tunes. Maybe we will see you again another time my friend." We saw a few new names this evening, *Johnny Brouwer*, "Sounding great boys." And it appears *Steve Astolfo* has brought in another friend, "*Kevin Harkin* in the house!! Alright!!" *Kevin* replied, "I was just checking it out *Steve*! Great stuff! Enjoy your whiskey or whisky as the case may be! Cheers!"



#### Other highlights this evening...

Steve Astolfo shared, "Good to see you back Deb!! Hope your neighbours's doing well." Deb was definitely back and as usual kept lots of conversations going in the Clubhouse.

*Ron Bissonnette* cut it close, "Was in the garage just before made it back in time for the start of the show...but got the munchies already." It appears *Ron* is enjoying his telethon prize basket from Spiritleaf.

Sometimes Ken sees viewers in person, "Lee (Matthews) it was really nice to see you and Wayne today. Me and Neil went out for some breakfast this morning and ran into them."

*Richard Grechulk* posted, "*Tony*'s in a lot of pain. Studying too hard." He replied, "Brain pain! Not much to work with to start with."

I'm positive the Clubhouse noticed something new leaning on the bookcase. After the Show I asked Ken why he did not share, he said it's not time yet. This reminds me in his late 20s/early 30s Ken went through a piercing stage. Many parts of his body 'was' pierced and many were self administered. I would always tell him no more. He would wear me down by moving a container of piercing jewelry all around the house so I would be reminded and finally give in. I see he's using the same strategy again. I'm positive there will be a skateboarding update next week. There have been some developments. *Richard* also made a wise observation, "Whiskey Wednesday Christmas edition must be coming soon. Blue Christmas. White Christmas and christmas in prison." I can confirm talks are in the works.

# *• The Watchmen* (from a fans perspective)





#### 5) The Watchmen Video (Live from the Danforth)

"It's time for reliving the weekend. The Watchmen played down at the Danforth it was a really cool show. We thought this week we would do a little recap. I found Mike Sheenan had a couple videos posted so I messaged him to see if we could use them and he said sure and he sent them to me. We are going to watch two songs, so sit back have a puff and enjoy a little bit of The Watchmen."

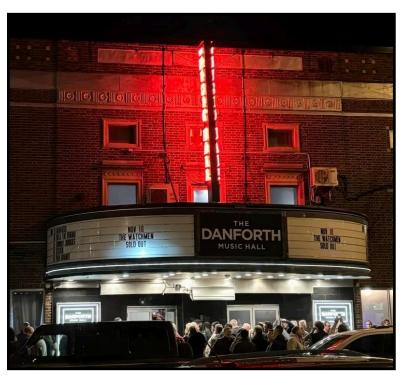






Danforth Music Hall - November 18th





I was so excited to see these two concert footage videos and I agree with viewer and past guest *Raeanne Schachter,* "Almost as good as being there. Looks and sounds FAB."

The videos were shot beautifully, perfect distance from the stage and zero movement. I'm thinking Mike used some kind of tripod or has extremely steady hands, unlike usual phone quality. Second you really couldn't hear anyone close by. We've all seen camera concert footage where you can't actually hear the singer only the inebriated fans.

A few of our Clubhouse members went to The Watchman show. They shared their perspectives. *Derek Mellor* was wondering, "Where did you guys stand at the show? We were a bit past the bar on Ken's side." *Tony Arkell*, "We were on the balcony. Ken's side." *Rod Nolan*, "I squeezed my way down Joey's side just in front of the bar. Got in too late for front row." Next time they should plan a meet and greet spot.

They may have an upcoming opportunity to meet. *Rod Nolan* was wondering, "Anyone hitting the Richmond Hill show in Feb?" *Derek Mellor* replies, "I'd love to but I get back from a trip that same day. Chances are I'll find a way to still go." *Rod Nolan*, "Doors at 8!"

*Richard Grechulk* was hopeful, "I think Ken waved to *Tony* and I in the balcony at the Danforth." *Tony Arkell* added, "He waved to my date, u, and me!"

After the Watchmen video ended Ken checked in with the Clubhouse. *Richard Grechulk* had a question, "Danny mentioned The Watchmen agent bday Saturday night 70 something. What's his story and what does the agent do for the band?" Ken explains, "Ralph James has been our agent since the bands inception. He is the coolest

guy in the world, best agent, keeping The Watchmen alive, finding us shows, it's been an incredible ride. The funny thing is Ralph James is the original bass player for Harlequin. Yes *Rich* I was in Danny's way a few times, Danny has just started to move around the stage more. *RJ* there seems to be a shortage of hair in The Watchmen, I'm trying my best to make up for it." *Derek Mellor* wondered, "Did anyone else buy a t-shirt at the concert and lose it before they got home? I'm guessing no." No sign of the t-shirt however Ken shared, "Joey lost his hat." *Tony Arkell* posted, "I remember there was an A+ grade given that night!" *Richard Grechulk* added, "Never before has Danny given an A+. We got one for All Uncovered Saturday night." Danny grades audiences on the quality of their singing.

The last Watchmen concert I went to was in 2018 also at the Danforth Music Hall. At this point I was using a cane. If you've been to the Danforth you know how steep the stairs are to get up to the balcony but I did it. This is an amazing venue to see the boys, the sound, the lighting and most importantly the audience is fantastic. The crowd sings along to every song. I can't officially tell you when and where but The Watchmen have a show next year and I am going to attend. How exciting is that. No specific details however I'm going to have fun sharing clues until it's officially announced. I'm sure you figured out the first clue it's somewhere in Ontario. And *Rod* I'm not going to their February show in Richmond Hill. Here's another clue there won't be snow on the ground.



Ken's Show & Tell from this evening combined with my vision board...

#### Open doors and embrace new opportunities!

Two trucks, three doors and six crew members from FCI Windows in Peterborough arrived at 8:30 AM and worked all day leaving the driveway just after 5 PM. This is the story of two of the doors, the third one is a work in progress.



"Look at our new doors, there is the before and after. We have all this new light coming in, it feels like the house is open all the time. I keep looking out thinking oh the door is open again. These are the exciting things that keep our world going ladies and gentlemen.

The old doors had about a centimeter gap that snow would just blow in, in the winter. So no more stuffed animals pushed up against the door for us. We are going to have a nice sealed heated house this year."

A small clarification, yes we have always had the gap at the bottom which has let in the cold but never snow we used to have screen doors. We removed the screen doors at the beginning of the summer so that I would be able to independently go outside.





The Secret Garden gets a new entrance...



Yes I guess it's official, I'm retired, I have my Ms. Edwards name plaque from my classroom. How exciting I'm going to have a front row seat to watch my garden grow from inside.





- *The Watchmen* (from a fans perspective)

#### 6) KenCon-Original (6th performance) -Already Gone from some future album

After the song, "Cool, that was fun. That was a good time. I'm playing with a little bit of distortion. That's the first time I'm using distortion since the Bad Intent days, which is pretty weird. It kind of has a Bad Intent vibe to it. But also it's totally different. It's really groovy, I'm really digging that one." The feeling in the Clubhouse is mutual. I predict this will become a viewer favorite.



Word Of The Week- distortion (noun) - altering the sound of amplified electric musical instruments, usually by increasing their gain, producing a "fuzzy", "growling", or "gritty" tone. I did have Ken point it out in the song for me.



I love this camera angle. Have you ever wondered about the snowman on the top shelf that stays out all year. Ken's mom had a pottery kiln in their home and would have pottery classes. This snowman was a very popular mold. It's very special to Ken.

A fun fact, a regular viewer, who like me has never posted sent me a photo of this exact same snowman which she has also enjoyed for many years.

It was then time to check in with the Goats. Neil was up first. Ken asked how he was doing and what was new in his world. "I finally got my Christmas lights out, well all eight of them. Well actually seven because I can't find the eighth one, I don't know where it is. I've got these projector lights, I went to go get the last two

and there's only one. I searched everywhere and I can't find the darn thing. I'm thinking last year when I brought them in that the ground was still frozen around one of them. So as a result I couldn't pull it out and when I finally got it out I put it in a place where I would be guaranteed to forget about it. The neighbors will have to put up with seven."

Ken was hoping, "Can you still broadcast your message across the wall, 'stay off my lawn'?" Neil had his comeback-line ready, "Of course it does, yes indeed, that's exactly right. And (he adds stay off) every other part of my premises."

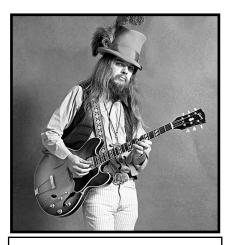


#### Five Minutes with Mr. Grant

Barry is becoming so comfortable with the moving cameras. He pans over from Neil to Mr. Grant. Let's see what G has been up to, "I've been listening to my new records. I bought some records (Ken's asks what albums). Leon Russell celebrating the sixth year after he died. I got Shelter People from 1973 I think (actually 1971). After I listened to it for a couple of times I realized that YouTube was posting all these different versions of this song. I thought you bastards." How sweet, Mr. Grant experiencing his first time being tracked by the Internet. He



continues with his music history lesson, "Great songs on that, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, if you don't know that one check it out. Check out the lyrics, it is so topical, you won't believe it was from 50 years ago."



#### He's a **Stranger in a Strange Land** Tell me why He's a stranger in a strange land

Just a stranger in a strange land

Well, I don't exactly know What's going on in the world today Don't know what there is to say About the way the people are treating Each other, not like brothers

Leaders take us far away from ecology With mythology and astrology Has got some words to say About the way we live today Why can't we learn to love each other It's time to turn a new face To the whole world wide human race **Leon Russell** was an American musician and songwriter who was involved with numerous bestselling records during his 60-year career that spanned multiple genres, including rock and roll, country, gospel, bluegrass, rhythm and blues, southern rock, blues rock,folk, surf and the Tulsa sound. His recordings earned six gold records and he received two Grammy Awards from seven nominations.

Ken shared his weekend record buying experience which was quite different, "The Prodigy just put out the 25th anniversary rerelease of *Fat Of The Land* which I have been looking for. So I got the silver vinyl pressing which is really cool. It's a great record to have, like when it's late at night and you're doing the dishes on ecstasy. Oh you know on those Tuesday nights when you have dropped some MDMA and you don't know what to do except do the dishes." I will confirm Ken has never, to my knowledge, taken ecstasy to do dishes.

Neil thought the acronym meant something else, "I thought that was two degrees, Medical Doctor Master of Arts."

<u>2nd Word Of The Week</u>- MDMA (noun) - methylenedioxy-methamphetamine commonly known as ecstasy (tablet form), and molly or mandy (crystal form)

In case you were wondering Ken shared, "It's been so long since I've done that. I always found ecstasy a little too chemical. It was great, don't get me wrong, I didn't like that chemically sandy feeling in my bloodstream. I always ended up carrying around a 2 L of orange juice with me to just try and cut the feeling. 'oh Ken is carrying around orange juice he must be on ecstasy'." Yes I'm sure that's what everybody's first thought was.



The Prodigy were an English electronic dance music band formed in Braintree, Essex, in 1990 and emerged during the underground rave scene. They are pioneers of the breakbeatinfluenced genre big beat, and describe their style as electronic punk. 51

#### Welcome to the tribe!





FYI, in case you were curious, I was, what does 'RUN NDG' mean. I asked Dave to explain, "NDG is the neighborhood I'm from in the west end of Montreal. Notre Dame de Grace. (Our lady of grace) it's basically a working class enclave of many faces from many places. And the RUN ... well, it's a double entente take from RUN DMC ... it's kinda like Montreal's mini answer to the NY borough of Brooklyn."

Ken introduces, "Dave went out on the weekend and got himself a dog. Look at this thing, OMG, Berkley, you're so cute. I don't want to say your name too much or you will come inside and you

are as big as a horse (yes he stayed out in the hall, no room in the Broadcast Studio). Dave tell us a little bit about Berkley and how he came into your life."

"Lisa sent me a picture of him in a Facebook ad. I have been looking at dogs for the past four months or so. I figured I was ready, it was time. I saw him and I said yes I have to go see him. I went out there on Friday night. I got out of the car and he ran right up to me, he put his paws on my thighs and looked up at me and let out a little (friendly doggy sound) and I went 'OK I'm done, get in the car'. That was it."

Ken shares, "Berkley's only a couple of years old. He's be kicking around the house here. He is huge, he can actually put his paws up on my shoulders (Ken is 6'3") but



he thinks he's a lapdog. He's so gentle, a total creature. Congratulations on Berkley and being a part of the tribe. It's great, we have lots of dogs now."

Ken looks down at Stanley by Neil's feet, pats him on the head and asks him, "Stanley are you starting to get upset a little bit, too many dogs for you." Dave made a wise observation, "Stanley is keeping them all in line."









#### 7) KenCon-Original (played often) -End Of The World from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

#### 8) KenCon-Original (played often) -Over You from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

#### 9) KenCon-Original (played often)

#### -Barstools And Broken Hearts from the upcoming Dagg Sessions

Ken introducing the last song of the evening, "I just realized we didn't include *Drunk Stoned And Broke* (another song from the Dagg Sessions) that's all right we're going to do *Barstools And Broken Hearts*. This one was inspired by all the people that sit at the bars that I play at and the stories that we all tell each other."

#### Deep Thoughts by Ken Tizzard

"Ladies and gentlemen we are at the end of another Whiskey Wednesday. I was noticing at The Watchmen shows, it's not so much about going to see The Watchmen, 'oh this great band, they are so good' I mean it is about that (IoI). It's what it's become after all these years. I went out (into the venue) when we were finished our show, I shook hands and got pictures with people. So many groups of people, there was a group from Halifax that flew up together, a group from Arizona.



And the way that everybody was singing.

I remember looking out at the sea of bodies, it's not

like they are just staring at us having a good time. They are staring at each other, groups of people, singing along. It's about the experience, the audience interacting with each other. It just made me think how appreciative that people still support us and that carries over to this too. I appreciate seeing Barry and the band here, I know Allison loves it too, all the dogs. Wednesday's are a chance for everybody to come by have some drinks and be a part of something that is really cool."

#### Video Rewind

Ken's unique introduction to a unique Video Rewind this evening, "Gary Louris what a treat it was to play with him. How cool to play with the guy from the Jayhawks. A band that I have been inspired by for years. It was really cool to share a stage with him.

He was a super sweet guy too. He came in from out of town and I thought he might be alone, I was alone (I know shockingly Neil did not accompany him this time) so I offered, 'are you interested in having probably the most depressing conversation with a bass player who is totally fed up with the music scene, maybe we can have dinner' (that's quite the invitation).





He said, 'oh thank you so much, that's very kind I've got my wife and we are meeting our daughter, you are welcome to join us'. I immediately went absolutely not thank you very much. He did give me the time and place and said if you are around, stop in, there will be a seat at the table. I didn't take him up on his offer but it was awfully kind of him. We are going to try to have a chat with him and have him on the Show in the new year."

**Video Rewind** - Save It for a Rainy Day (Gary Louris at the Danforth Music Hall) Original Release -November 19th, 2023

Ken's words from Facebook, "This week we have special quest Rick Mercer on The Whiskey Wednesday Show talking about his new book "The Road Years... a memoir, continued..." To honour this we will also dedicate the night to Ron Hynes as we feast on some of his awesome tunes... Its gonna be a great one..."

And it definitely was great, another special, 'one for the books' kind of Show. This article is titled Home to Newfoundland which describes this episode perfectly. Thank you singer-songwriter Evelyn Jess, I'm borrowing this title from her original song she sang when she was a guest on The Whiskey Wednesday Show 'live' in St. John's (June, 2023). On the Show tonight there was Rick Mercer, Ron Hynes songs and viewers tuning in from back Home which made tonight's Show, using Evelyn's words again, feel like a 'love letter to Newfoundland'.



Did regulars notice right away the 'on air' sign was not turned on? I did, it was remedied, more to share coming up. Also I love the Kirby Lambert t-shirt, very cool design. Ken was going to change for the Show and I said no I like the tie and toque.

Ken explains, "We were just discussing that as we have been working on Jane's tune for the Aron show. Also putting together Christmas Ain't The Same which I had forgotten that we wrote, and recorded and put out. In fact we put out a whole Christmas record that I kind of forgotten about. When I listen to it I still can't believe that we did that." Mr. Grant wisely points out, "Now we have to learn it all over again." Ken explained the writing of the album, "We listened to a whole wrack of Jim Reeves and stole a whole bunch of his little harmony lines on the fiddles, violins, back ups. Oh man it doesn't sound anything like Jim Reeves." Neil suggested,

Episode 42-Wednesday, October 18th 1) Judgment- Ron Hynes

Man of a 1000 songs- Ron Hynes

3) Whatta Ya At? Rick Mercer Part 1 Of Interview

My Father's Ghost- Ron Hynes

5) For The USA- Ron Hynes

6) Whatta Ya At? Rick Mercer Part 2 Of Interview

7) 1962- Ron Hynes

8) Sonny's Dream- Ron Hynes

Video Rewind- Coast to Coast Fever

Ken was excited for tonight's Show, "And we are on just like that. Just like that I say I've been sitting here waiting for nine hours." I must admit I was also super excited for this episode to start.

The Show begins with Ken checking in with the Clubhouse, "The first message of the night (courtesy of *Richard Grechulk*) 'Almost time for Christmas in prison with Mr. Grant'. We were just talking about that." Mr. Grant is ready with a oneliner, "Yeah they're sending me back (to prison) I think next week."



"That's quite true, I don't think we should be bothered doing it again." Gratefully Ken disagrees, "Well it's Christmas time we've got to do something. We can only do *The Red Baron* so many times." Oh bah humbug Neil. But I will admit when they were recording this album it was challenging to hear nonstop Christmas songs in August and September of 2020 when it was recorded. I will take a deep dive into their album, Sketches Of Christmas next month, including explaining the unusual title.

#### 1)KenCon-Ron Hynes (played occasionally) -Judgment from Stealing Genius album (2010)

Ken did his regular beginning of the Show check-in with the Goats. This evening Dave's response led both Ken and I down an interesting path. Dave shared that his aunt Eileen is watching all the way from Montreal. Neil was wondering, "Oh that's your cool aunt." Which made Ken ask, "Do you have to be from Montreal to be the cool aunt?" Dave wisely responded, "They are all from Montreal." *Ron Bissonnette* posted in the Clubhouse, "I am still in Montreal!! And yeah I am cool." Yes *Ron* we would all agree with that.



Now this is where Ken starts down the garden path, "Montrealers are sick cool. I remember the first time I went to Montreal I was just blown away by how cool everybody looked. Girls and guys OMG, everybody looks just forking excellent. What the hell is going on here?" Dave suggests, "They all have that flare, that je ne sais quoi (a quality that cannot be described or named easily)."

Mr. Grant now helps out and leads me down another garden path, "Oh man you should've seen Expo 67. The gals were hot in 1967." Being born after 1967 I have heard about the Montreal Expo so I've decided to do my favorite thing and research it.



After Expo 67 ended the site and most of the pavilions continued on as an exhibition called **Man and His World**, open during the summer months from 1968 until 1984. By that time, most of the buildings—which had not been designed to last beyond the original

# The **1967 International and Universal Exposition**, known as **Expo 67**, was a general exhibition from April to October, 1967. It was held in Montreal and is considered to be one of the most successful World's Fairs of the 20th century with the most attendees to that date and 62 nations participating. It also set the single-day attendance record for a world's fair, with 569,500 visitors on its third day.



Expo 67 was Canada's main celebration during its centennial year. The fair had been intended to be held in Moscow, to celebrate the Russian Revolution's 50th anniversary; however, for various reasons, the Soviets decided to cancel, and Canada was awarded it in late 1962



exhibition—had deteriorated and were dismantled. Today, the islands that hosted the world exhibition are mainly used as parkland and for recreational use, with only a few remaining structures from Expo 67 to show that the event was held there.

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#### The Whiskey Wednesday Clubhouse Let's see who's in the Clubhouse with me!

Ken was very happy to see a regular return, "Hey Steve Runions glad to see you back online. It's been a while since I've seen you in the flesh there buddy, I hope you are doing all right. Ron Bissonnette found the screaming goat. Of course you did you are always the first person to find it." BTW if you are still looking it's in 14-year-old Ken's favorite spot the big goat is nursing the little goat. Eric (Spiritleaf) Contreras is still in the Dominican on vacation enjoying the Show.



Apparently other viewers thought Ken's wardrobe choices this evening were great. Ken responds to a message, "*Steve Astolfo* ('sick toque') thank you, yes these Watchmen toques are cool." Lots of discussion in the Clubhouse. Sorry *Deb* who wants one, they are collector items. *Richard Grechulk* has one, "Yes Great toque. Wore mine to school today."

**Fun Fact-** The word **toque** is very Canadian. It made it into the top 10 Canadian slang words. Less cultured folk might refer to a winter hat as a "beanie," but cold weather headwear is strictly referred to as a toque in Canada and only Canada apparently. This word is not used like this elsewhere in the world. Example: Eh there, ya think I need a toque for the walk to Timmies?"

A regular was missing this week and another was late to the Clubhouse. *Debbie Parsan* let us know, "*Tony Arkell* is at a wedding." *Tony* was missed, he is an avid poster in the Clubhouse. *Joe Murray,* "Good evening fellow WW'ers! Sorry I'm late... I had to jump through extra hoops to get here this evening, lol." *Joe* had a few things to share this evening, "Next Wednesday I will be on a plane to Cuba! So I'll have to catch y'all the following WW from Varadero!" Have a wonderful vacation you will be missed. Joe was wondering, "Barry I may need some assist with home studio recording. Not getting the results I want." Of course his reply was, "Let me know *Joe*." *Debbie Parsons* made some astute observations, "Barry is your Guy!" & "Barry is always there to help us!"

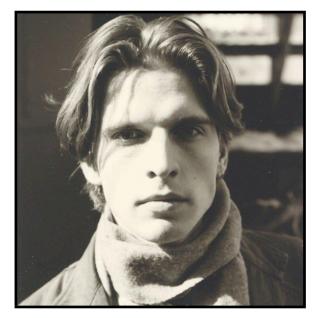
Often during the watching of the whatta ya at? video Ken will check in with the Clubhouse, this time he saw a familiar name drop in and he posted, "Hey Andy. How's bike life?" *Andrew Johnson* replied, "Always good. Back home safe." We met Andy, his wife Cheri and son Trent 10+ years ago randomly on a Caribbean cruise. They were our dining companions, we hit it off instantly, became friends and visited them often in Florida on our summer RV road trips. Andy has recently retired and goes on motorcycle road trips across America. They pop in on a Wednesday night from time to time and always say hello. Little off-topic we brought down 'Trent University' gear, pretty cool for a young teenager to wear.

#### 2) KenCon-Ron Hynes (played occasionally) -Man of 1000 Songs from *Cryer's Paradise* album (1993)

Ken introducing song, "We are going to do a Ron Hynes signature song tonight. This is the song that warranted him the nickname the man of 1000 songs. For those of us who had the privilege of knowing Ron can understand how true that song is."

Ken reflecting after the song, "Dave who recently learned this, I explained to him just wait until I do those three 'oh,oh,oh's' at the end, then it's after the third one. And tonight I just looked over and I'm thinking I'm not singing it, how does Dave know where to end, he picked up." *RJ Musgrove* shared, "Got to be Ron's chauffeur several years ago when he was doing a short tour of Ontario shortly after his bout in rehab. It was an honour to do it since musically he has gone."





A quick check-in with the Clubhouse turned into a special moment, "Now *Debbie* just said hi *Ron* and *Clark*. I don't know, I haven't seen Clark here but if you are, sending my love as always." He was tuned in which made Ken very happy, "Hey there is *Clarky Hancock* how are you doing my friend? That profile picture that you are using these days, you were probably 18 I am thinking. And you had just come from Lemoine's School of Hairdressing (real school, still offers a 50-week program) and Val Hansen was a student there and cut your hair and put some highlights in. She made you into the perfect, preppy, punk, new wave, just sort of god that you were at the time. You were so beautiful and you haven't really changed. Your hair is the same, you should grow your hair and go back to Lemoine's.

Speaking of Lemoine's, St. John's and back home let's dig into the first part of the Rick Mercer interview. Here you go ladies and gentlemen."

#### 3) whatta ya at? with Rick Mercer

You can find the **Part 1** article where Mercer discusses his new book, *The Road Years* on page 80.

Returning 'live' back to the Show, did anyone notice the 'on air' sign was turned on. I may have asked Mr. Grant to remind Ken when he took a bathroom break. The bathroom is conveniently located in my bedroom space.



Ken returns laughing and shares, "Who am I, Alan Doyle? That is funny, love you Alan." This will make absolutely no sense if you've not seen the video or read the article yet.

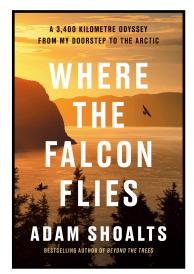
Ken continues, "Rick is always a joy to talk to, a very, very funny guy and his book is fantastic. It's out now you will see it everywhere you go as you are out doing your Christmas shopping. I advise you picking up a copy for yourself."

Neil shared, "I was at a show on Saturday night and there was a gentleman there named Adam Shoalts who is Canadian Geographic's official explorer. He has put a new book out and he said I'm really, really thrilled to be #3 on the best sellers list behind Rick Mercer and Getty Lee. But what I'm really, really chuffed about is that #4 is Britney Spears."

#### A 3,400 km Odyssey From My Doorstep to the Arctic

"Looking out his porch window one spring morning, Adam Shoalts spotted a majestic peregrine falcon flying across the neighbouring fields near Lake Erie. Falcons migrate annually from southernmost Canada to remote arctic mountains. Grabbing his backpack and canoe, Shoalts resolved to follow the falcon's route north on an astonishing 3,400kilometre journey to the Arctic.

Along the way, he faces a huge variety of challenges and obstacles, including storms on the Great Lakes, finding campsites in the urban wilderness of Toronto and Montreal, avoiding busy commercial freighter traffic, gale force winds, massive hydro electric dams, bushwhacking without trails, dealing with hunger, multiple bear encounters, and navigating white-water rapids on icy northern rivers far from any help."



As you can see in the photo Ken is very pleased with himself, "It's always wonderful catching up with Richard Mercer. Most of the interviews I do I end up talking about peoples names and making weird commentary about them (I'm proud of Ken he has admitted his faults, regulars know he often messes up names). We've got a few more tunes to do for you and then we will get back to Part 2 which gets quite interesting to a point where Rick says, 'oh no not more of this horrible game' (then you hear Ken's evil laugh). So I felt quite successful when he said that."



#### 4)KenCon-Ron Hynes (played occasionally) -**My Father's Ghost** from Stealing Genius album (2010)

Ken with another Dave reflection after the song, "I was just saying you have come a long way with that one. I remember when you were first learning all of these new grooves and we kept throwing this one in. It is a particularly difficult one as it is. That one has come a long way good sir."



Dave shares, "Thank you, that is one of my favorites to play."

Ken agrees, "It's got a nice groove, it's long enough that you can get into it, ups and downs but nothing huge."

Dave, "The storytelling in it, that's what grabs me."



Ken, "If you can get into the words, then you are totally sold."



5)KenCon-Ron Hynes (played occasionally) -For The USA from Stealing Genius album (2010)

"A little Ron Hynes portrait of 20th century Newfoundlanders living in New York."

Checking in with the iPad, "Nice to see you *Lawrence Bell*, that's Larry? (Dave confirms yes it is). Larry the Cucumber. You are going to stop tuning in because I keep saying that. I'm sorry man (Dave confirms that's why he keeps tuning in). Smoke a big joint and look up Larry the Cucumber online, actually maybe don't do that I'm not sure what that would bring up.

Hey *Llewellyn Thomas* it is so nice to see your face, oh man I have been thinking about you a lot these days Lewellyn. Thinking about the days back with NRK when we used to jam at the French Society. Oh man that was so much fun, what a friggin time. Llewellyn and Ethel it's great to see you both."

#### Will/Should Ken Skate Again?



It's time for the big reveal, "I know some of you saw this thing last week. I'm just going to show you for a minute, isn't it beautiful. It's gorgeous, it's a Land Yachtz. It's a really nice skateboard, it's huge and it's got the Creature from the Black Lagoon in a nudie suit with a cowboy hat on (a 1954 American black-and-white 3D monster horror film). I think it is pretty awesome.

The online 'will Ken/should Ken skate' debate is still happening. So I got the new deck last week, I went out last Friday. I thought I'm going to give this a try, I ended up hurting my calf." I will attest he was so pumped and excited to go out and I was a little surprised he returned only 20 minutes later with a limp. He was not at all discouraged and took it as a learning experience.

Ken has a plan, "I haven't moved in two years for God's sake. I'm trying to get some movement in my life. If you are out there and want to get back into skateboarding I recommend it, I really do. But I will tell you one trick that I have been working with. A word to the wise these guys did send me this. I didn't buy it, they sent it to me when they read online what I was doing. This thing is called a Whirly Board, it's like a skateboard but it's got these pads (3 on the back) and it's got grip tape, you can see where my feet have been.

I've been using this thing to just kind of get limber. You know what I've been doing for a couple of nights I get a hard chair like this and I sit down when I'm watching TV at night. I put that on the floor in front of me and I just roll my feet around for like an hour. OMG it feels so good, sometimes I close my eyes and I pretend I am skateboarding. I lean into it a little bit. So the Whirly Board, if you want you can use your own virtual reality in your mind and go skateboarding or if you want to get into shape. There is a whole exercise routine with it, you can do push-ups with it, I haven't got into that.

Skateboarding, will Ken, should Ken, I don't know, we will see what happens. Right now it will stay another ridiculous thing that Ken does." Neil was wondering, "Maybe you should add 'can Ken skate' to that." I think both Neil and I hope he chooses the virtual reality skateboarding option, lol.

I know at least one viewer who was convinced, *Lisa Anthony,* "I want a whirly board."

> Ken is putting together a series of will/should Ken skate again videos. This one introduces viewers to the Land Yachtz and Whirly Board. I must say the brick in my Secret Garden is a perfect backdrop for Ken's YouTube videos.



#### 6) whatta ya at? with Rick Mercer

You can find the **Part 2** article when Rick plays the game, **I wonder what Rick would choose?** on page 90.

Returning 'live' back to the Show, Ken reflects, "I have been blessed by the people in my life, these people aren't coming on our Show because of our massive viewership (Neil was shocked, 'they're not?'). You can catch Rick Mercer on all of the national morning shows right now for hundreds of thousands of viewers at a time. It's always so nice that everybody likes to come on the Show, hang out and have a bit of fun. Thanks again to Rick for being so cool and hanging out and letting me play that horrible game with you."

#### 7)KenCon-Ron Hynes (played occasionally) -1962 from *Get Back Change* album (2003)



Ken introducing song, "Let's do 1962, this is the first song that I played with Ron. This goes out to Ron Hynes tonight and to Rick Mercer and to Mike Wade, and Mercedes, and Phil, Janice and Robbie, Andrew, Clarky if you are listening this is for you too brother, I hope you are still there." A lot of dedications for this song.

Mr. Grant then randomly threw out another name, "Joey Smallwood" which inspired Ken to tell a story while strumming the chords for the upcoming song. I love when he does this and I was exceptionally happy because 1962 is my all-time favorite Ron Hynes tune.



Actually this is a story I've never heard before and I got to do a little research. Ken take it away, "Joey Smallwood. Growing up we had a place out on the Roaches Line. Before I discovered skateboarding I wanted a minibike but my parents wouldn't let me. I had this little Yamaha scooter which is like a three gear automatic motorcycle thing. Looked like a Vespa but old-school.

I used to dirt bike up around all the trails. I used to cut through Joey's yard. Joey lived down the road from us and sometimes he would be out and he would shake a fist at me from across the field. Dad would always say don't let that forker catch you." I cannot confirm any part of this story but Ken assures me it was Joey Smallwood.



Joey Smallwood, premier of Newfoundland (1949–72). The leading proponent of Confederation in Newfoundland, Joey Smallwood played an important role in bringing the province into Confederation in 1949. He served as Newfoundland and Labrador's first premier for nearly 23 years, and is sometimes referred to as "the last Father of Confederation." During his lifetime, he was also called "the only living Father of Confederation."

Smallwood signing the agreement that brought Newfoundland into Canada, 11 December 1948.



Ken starts to wrap-up the evening or does he, "Everybody thank you so much we are going to call it there. Well it's 9:13 (looks to Neil) we should finish off with Sonny (I could almost hear the Clubhouse yelling encore, encore). Yes we should finish off with Sonny because (wait for it) that second edible is just kicking in.

Here I am putting on my second capo Mr. Grant. It's like lighting a cigarette when you already have one in your hands."

Ken does a final check-in with the Clubhouse and he sees this message posted from *Clark Hancock*, "Clarky? Thanks Kenny! lol" Kenny responds, "It is funny though Clark when I hear your name being said by somebody it's by *Mike Buehler* in my head. And it's always that *Mike Buehler* 'Clarky'." Hard to describe in words the voice Ken used to imitate Mike but Neil's comment may help paint the picture, "That makes Mike sound really, really intelligent." Ken explains, "No no, he just has one of those voices." Mike tunes in on a Wednesday night every so often, it's been a while, hopefully he watched this episode on YouTube as a rerun.

Ken reflects, "Clark I don't know if you have been watching the last few weeks I know you have been busy. As we all are these days. I've been talking a lot about you because I've been thinking a lot about you. I miss you so much. I don't know what it is, I've been seeing you a lot in my head. I hope you're all good. I hope you are well out there in the world." *Clark Hancock*, "It is high time for a visit! & "Thank you gentlemen, great show tonight! All the love."

I asked Ken to reflect, "Looks to me like Bannerman Park around 1984 with Clark and his platinum blonde hair, my semi mohawk and Johnny Fisher doing his best Sid Vicious. It could have been a Peace-A-Chord or some similar event."







"This was a version of WAFUT with Llewellyn Thomas playing (I believe) Rod Locke's guitar.

This show was at the old age home that we rented out for the event. They were not expecting what occurred. We set up in their meeting room and about 80 punk rock kids showed up.

I think we were 16 ish at the time. I remember my first Circle Jerks t-shirt."

In this photo in particular, I can see Ken's sister Christine and our girls.

8)KenCon-Ron Hynes (played occasionally) -Sonny's Dream from Face To The Gale album (1997, song written in 1976)

# Three minute closing (a Seinfeld inspired skit)

Ken's Rant..."Remember when you are out there, it's beginning to be Christmas season. People are getting really busy, they are really looking for parking spaces, they are really frustrated. Everything is overpriced. Everybody is underpaid."



"It's still a crush out there."

"That's why..."



"... I don't talk about it in here."

"But if you have to be out there ... "



"... in the time when you're not here."

"Remember try to be nice to people"



"Be kind and Be Like Steve."

"Cheers ladies and gentlemen."

### Video Rewind & A Look Back

Ken, "Tonight for the Video Rewind back when we used to do interviews originally I used to take a request from the people I was interviewing or learn a song. Rick mentioned he was a fan of *Coast to Coast Fever* so we learned it for him." The video starts with a segment of the whatta ya at? with Rick Mercer from April, 2022 before getting to the song. Rick does a wonderful job introducing David Wiffen to viewers.



Ken, "We learned a song for you. When you first watched The Whiskey Wednesday Show you said to me do you know David Wiffen from Ottawa (this is the exact moment Rick clues

into what's happening, 'oh yes'). I did some research and last week when we were talking you mentioned *Coast* to *Coast Fever.*"



Rick, "David Wiffen,

I was spending time in

my partner. They are all

I was playing Ron Hynes

Gatineau just outside Ottawa with friends of

Ottawa Valley guys.

and they like him too.



**David Wiffen** was born in Surrey, England (1942) and came to Canada at the age of sixteen. He is an English-Canadian folk singer-songwriter.

For the first time the Clubhouse is helping me research.

*Coast to Coast Fever* is Wiffen's third solo album, released in 1973. *Rod Nolan*, "Great song! And I just looked it up on the phone, this album came out 50 years ago!?!" *RJ* 

Musgrove, "Coast to Coast Fever was produced by Bruce Cockburn." Bruce also plays guitar, bass and celeste on the album. It was nominated for a 1974 Juno Award in the "Best Folk Album" category, but lost to Gordon Lightfoot.



Then they suggested that David Wiffen was their Ron Hynes. I remember thinking hmm we'll see about that."



"We put the record on, it was vinyl, David Wiffen, *Coast to Coast Fever.* And in many ways I believe he is. As you know everybody in Newfoundland and Labrador, and your fans certainly know, how much we admire Ron and we believe he should be there with the Joni's and the Neil's, that he belongs there. David Wiffen is one of those characters. I don't want to speak for anyone in Ontario or fans of him, I think he has a lot of fans but certainly in my generation I had never heard of him (I believe he was brand new to many Whiskey Wednesday viewers as well). The *Coast to Coast Fever* album is pretty close to perfect as far as singer-songwriters go. It's a pretty amazing album so that's fantastic, I'm really looking forward to this."





Reflecting back on the Rick Mercer whatta ya at?, wow we have come a long way. This interview was actually 'live' we watched it as it was happening, how crazy. Ken's first four guests were live on the Wednesday night. After Rick Mercer, Ken started pre-recording them. I remember, not fondly, how stressful it was to have a live guest on. Would technology cooperate? Would Ken get distracted? I would also suggest the quality back in the day was a little different. Ken looks a little dark and ominous.



I'm really enjoying going back through Ken's YouTube catalogue to find the Video Rewind. The downstairs Broadcast Studio is home for The Whiskey Wednesday Show, but looking back at where the Show began is very nostalgic. I must say I do miss seeing Ken's socked feet and the groovy screaming goat camera. On his YouTube channel it lists 823 videos so we have lots of future options.



**Video Rewind** - *Coast to Coast Fever* (David Wiffen- Rick Mercer request) Original Release - April 7th, 2022







"The first mix I did in a studio I was 17, '77 so 46 years since then. How many records have I mixed, a bunch. I have done lots of film score mixing and a feature film score might have 50 pieces of music in it. Many dozens of feature films and a few dozen series. And a series can have 26 episodes. So the number of mixes gets into the thousands. I hated this when I was in my 20s, people would say 'ah it's just experience' and I'm like 'ah shut up old timer'. Now I am the old timer and you know what experience helps. If I haven't figured out how to mix by now I never will. I mix OK. When I listen to my own work I think (I captured John's expressions below) as one does which is why I am still studying."





Ken reflects, "The one thing that I do caution young musicians unless you want to get into the business of music there is so much out there. I hear these young musicians they start talking to me within a couple of minutes of conversing the conversation turns to numbers and algorithms. We were getting together to talk about songwriting and art and all of a sudden all you are talking about is numbers. I find that is a very dangerous thing for people.

John responds, "You know it was going on when we were kids too. I totally hear what you are saying. It's because we have fear inside that we won't make it and it's our drive to survive. It's telling us we better get our act together. So we are paying attention to where the fruit might be. This is natural but it is hard to do that when you're trying to make art.

We were told the same thing you need to pursue interest from labels. You need to play the game, you need to have a package. Or if you were a balding man like me, you need hair. They used to tell me that I needed hair. And I am like I don't have forking hair, at least not any place that you want to see it.

There were people who could make that work but it was always kind of temporary, with very few exceptions. You would hear about somebody getting a big deal, the record company gave them a six figure deal or a million dollars. And when you are 20 you think oh you've made a million dollars your good for life. Well it turns out you're not. It turns out you need to do something all the time. It turns out the actual thing that pays the rent, the actual source of the money is the audience. That's it. If you focus there then you've got a shot.

But you have to eat, they are not just going to knock on your door. That's the same now. It's very tempting to think can I work this so I can squeeze a little bit of money out ahead of time. Get a little advance. We are sort of coloured by the idea that there was a reliable source of the money that was some amorphous thing out there that came through the record labels. So we would look at the labels and agents and managers and lawyers and so forth as being the people that we were focused on. And that I think was a mistake.

So you can say the Internet, file sharing ruined music I actually don't think it did. I think a bunch of things happened that took the money out of the retail side of music at least the record business. Even though it wasn't a robust business anyways. It's not been around all that long. We always thought this is the thing they need. They bought it because they liked it, people are fickle.

And the idea that it is like any other product is also untrue. You need a fridge, you need to pay your heating bill, you need food. Music you buy it when you want it whether you need it or not. You don't budget, nobody I have ever heard thinks well I have exactly \$14 to spend this week on musical entertainment.











And you are competing for that \$14 with the other rock band, that was the way they talked. Nonsense, if you were good and you connected with the audience they found the money for you. That's still true. The question is how do they get it to you. Generally speaking there's a couple of ways, the main way is live performance and then merch. People show up at gigs in order to show their support for you. People want to get into a crowd and show their love for the artist because you have done something for them on an artistic level. That's very different from the kind of image we have of the business. I have the privilege of giving that rant to 20 year olds and it goes right by them just like everything went right by me."



"By the way kids mastering your own mixes is a very bad idea. If you mix the record you are the last person on earth who should master it. That's just my personal opinion. Mixing and mastering is one word, it should not be one word. You can't afford mastering, fine make it loud enough so it will be at the right level for Spotify. Put a limiter on it, make it better. Don't screw around with mastering. Get somebody preferably with some experience and somebody who didn't mix the record. That's going to be the best thing."



"A real eye-opener for me was Lady Gaga. Imagine Lady Gaga a long time ago she was basically a popstar, sort of a new version of Madonna. I saw the name of this person and I heard the song *Poker Face* which I thought was funny. I was pretty sure there was a subtle innuendo there and it turns out I was right. Later on she said oh yeah I was trying to make this teenage joke. I thought I kind of like that, this is pretty fluffy, light weight stuff.

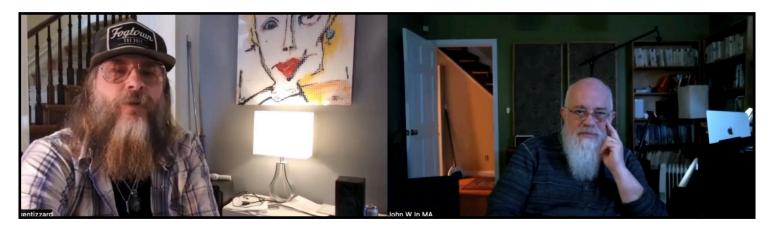
Then one night I was downtown in LA near what was called the Staples Center then. One of her shows got out and these little 14 year old kids were coming out and they were blown away. Absolutely freaking out. This is the greatest thing that has ever happened. OK this is somebody doing something good. Those are the people, that's the audience. You don't have to have 20,000 of them.

It's always been true if you ask an A&R guy what's the artist you want to sign. It isn't the one you like even though they did sign people that they liked back when they were doing that stuff. If you were trying to get signed the best thing you could possibly do is to play a gig at the Horseshoe and during the gig everybody is standing on the tables screaming. If you're doing that, the thing that A&R people can't do is get people up on the tables. And they know this, you can skip all the lawyers and focus on the people. We want to move people out of their environment and bring them something beautiful. First of all my impression of Lady Gaga back in the day and my current impression of say Taylor Swift, whatever the overall transaction is, the numbers, they are bringing something to the audience and they come out feeling like they got it. They feel like they have been the beneficiary of some generosity."

"This is another thing that happens too if somebody gets a hit. Getting a hit means you have written something people understand. You prevented it from being produced well, which a lot of artists do, they get in the way. Everything lined up well and it worked out great. If you have one hit, you are not an expert. You were there long enough that good fortune smiled upon you."







Ken is curious, "What about when they take these world class musicians and they put them in a subway and they have them play something that they performed the night before for 2000 people at the gala dinner somewhere. They put them in a subway and everybody walks by, a few people stop and notice. Is that because the people are not thinking about it, it hasn't been pointed out to them that it is good?"

John reflects, "My feeling about that is there's more going on than just the player playing the notes. A lot has to do with the circumstances. I don't like going to rock shows, if I go to rock show it's usually because I know somebody in the band. I was offered tickets to go see Tedeschi Trucks (an American blues rock group) it was at the Gardens here in Boston. I just didn't want to be in a hockey rink with a loud band. It just doesn't sound like a good time to me but had I gone what would have floated my boat would probably be the audience.

I go to baseball games and I am a bad baseball fan because I don't hate anybody, you are supposed to be partisan. I think that is part of the fun, the in group/out group thing, humans do this. It's part of our instinct and we feel good about that. Unfortunately it leads to death and destruction too, not at a baseball game necessarily.

I think this particular style of athletics is beautiful to me. I like the fact that there is not that much of a time limit so there is a depth to it. A lot of people see it and think it's just boring, I get that too.



I was at a game at Fenway Park which is particularly a cool place to see a game. It was the Dodgers, a team that I know really well. The Dodgers team had a whole bunch of players formally with the Red Sox. There was some butt hurt feelings that the Dodgers had gotten these guys. Much loved players and all that kind of stuff. And vice versa. I went thinking I was just going to watch a baseball game and what I saw was this really kind of rich feeling of connection and love from 25,000 people. That was interesting to me, watching the people react and seeing a kind of zeitgeist out in the open like that.

So there was a baseball game, the Dodgers lost, there was numbers, there was a result, there were hits, there was action. That was fantastic but the bigger message was the situation. You got all these people together and there was a good vibe. I enjoyed the fact that the vibes were good. When you get that many people together and the vibes are good it's actually really fun. The problem is you could also get 25,000 people in a place and have a bad vibe. Preferable to have a good vibe.

The subway musician, you know Joshua Bell (American violinist and conductor) playing Vivaldi in the subway. You have a completely different audience, a different circumstance, everybody in there is not hanging out. There



will be some people who will recognize it for what it is even though it's taken out of context. Most people won't, it's not a comment on the people.

There is more to it than just the notes and the players. There is an idea of what a concert is like. We are going to go where the music is. There is a connection that happens there, it is a part of an



arrangement you have made, a social contract. When you take that away some of it is going to be gone. I bet it would be different if you had Josh Bell in a subway station and you also brought 75 people to stand around him. That would be quite different because people would recognize, 'oh there's something happening'. They want to be in the 'in group' and check it out."









Ken wrapping up the interview, "Ladies and gentlemen we have had John Whynot with us for the past, I don't know how long this is going to be after I cut it up, he's been chatting here for a while. I think I can say there is going to be two weeks of having John Whynot on so we will spread it out." John interjects, "So sorry folks, you'll get past it, just hang in there." Are you kidding it's been so interesting and informative. Ken agrees and explains the Show in one sentence, "It's Wednesday night, we get together, we get high, the band plays some music, I talk to some friends, people like to see it, it's fun.

John it's been great chatting with you, you are looking great. I love the Letterman look I think it's fantastic. I can't believe the Letterman look is a term that I just made up being used by everybody and it just started right here with me." Oh Ken yes nobody else has ever came up with the term 'Letterman look'.

John's thoughts, "I get that. I get also get Walt Whitman (American poet) which is OK. August Renoir (French artist), not quite right. And Santa Claus. If I didn't have rosy cheeks and twinkly eyes it wouldn't work." I would agree Santa Claus is the perfect comparison.

Ken concludes, "John thank you very much for coming on the Show. I look forward to when our paths cross again, I don't know when that will be in person. In the meantime we will continue our regular conversations on the telephone once every few months." John agrees, "It sounds good to me we have fun chatting." Fortunately for all of us we had front row seats this time.

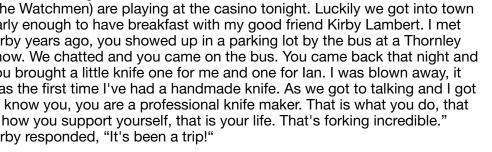
whatta ya at?

Another first on the Whiskey Wednesday Show. The whatta ya at? was with Kirby Lambert a custom knife maker.

I was particularly excited because you may be surprised to hear I have a fascination with bladesmithing. Are you wondering why? When I was in Ottawa for my transplant I was in the hospital for just over a month, gratefully I had access to a TV. I became guite enthralled with the TV show Forged in Fire. So I was interested to learn more about this historic art form.

Let's find out Ken's connection. "Ladies and gentlemen welcome to The Whiskey Wednesday Show I am here in Regina we

(The Watchmen) are playing at the casino tonight. Luckily we got into town early enough to have breakfast with my good friend Kirby Lambert. I met Kirby years ago, you showed up in a parking lot by the bus at a Thornley show. We chatted and you came on the bus. You came back that night and you brought a little knife one for me and one for lan. I was blown away, it was the first time I've had a handmade knife. As we got to talking and I got to know you, you are a professional knife maker. That is what you do, that is how you support yourself, that is your life. That's forking incredible." Kirby responded, "It's been a trip!"





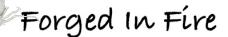
Bladesmithing is the art of making knives, swords, daggers and other blades using a forge, hammer, anvil, and other smithing tools. Bladesmithing is an art that is thousands of years old and found in cultures all over the world.



Forged in Fire is an American competition series that airs on the History channel. In each episode, four bladesmiths compete in a three-round elimination contest to forge bladed weapons. I didn't realize it's still going, it's in its 10th season. I binged watched the first six.

I believe that in order to make a superior knife you must use superior materials. That is why I work with top grade, high-tech materials. The steels I generally use in my folders and fixed blades are CPM S3Ov, CPM 154 CM, BG-42, and Damasteel. The handle materials I mostly use range from G-10, Micarta, and carbon fiber to mother of pearl and fossilized mammoth ivory. I exclusively use Gal/ 4v titanium for the liners in my folders. I mostly make my bolsters from materials such as Gal/4v titanium, damascus, carbon fiber, Timascus or mokume. When making Japanese style blades I generally use 1050, 1084, or L6. The handles will usually consist of a phenolic handle covered in stingray skin then wrapped with a nylon cord that has been impregnated with resin to give it maximum strength, toughness, and longevity. I am constantly striving for perfection in creating, for what I feel is one of the highest quality knives on the market today. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to let me know. ~ Kirby Lambert

# <u>Kirby Lambert</u>





Kirby has been making knives since '91, in 2002 he went full-time and it has been his passion ever since. Ken explained the scope of his work, "You do a combination of knives, you do custom work for people and you also do production knives which you design and then they are put out by a company that manufactures them.

You are in the situation where, I asked Kirby to bring some knives today and he said 'well I don't have any knives, I've only made 10,000 of them but I don't have any'.

You are in the position where you are constantly doing shows, touring in effect going from town to town across the world really, showing your products with other knife makers and taking custom orders. So you never really have a shop with 30 knives where people can go look at."

Kirby explains, "I work on batches usually 5 or 10 at a time. As soon as they are finished they are out the door or finished just in time to take to a show."

Ken asks how many "Kirby" knives he owns himself. The answer may surprise you. "I would say maybe three." It surprised Ken, "That's how many of your knives that I've got. I've got the original one you gave me, the paring knife. The one Neil got commissioned for me, the big one. Oh and I've got two of your production knives, the flip ones. So I've got more than you."



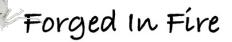


Kirby shares, "Every time I build a run of stuff I always say I will put in one extra one for me and then when it gets finished I'm like I can sell this one, next time I'll build one. It's been that way for 20 some years. Especially with kitchen knives, my wife is always every time I finish one she is like when do we get one." Ken shares, "Anybody who's watched one of my cooking videos which I do every now and again when I'm bored, I'm always talking about my 'Kirby' knives."





#### Custom Kníves





Time for Show & Tell, "Because Kirby doesn't own a lot of knives he brought this binder, there are some of his fancy builds in here. Tell me a little bit about this knife here." There was a lot of technical information shared, I encourage you to watch the video, I'm going to highlight a few knives.

Ken was wondering, "When you are combining steel's like this, how are they combined?"

Kirby explains, "You have alternating layers of steel, you tack weld them together, you heat them and once they are the right temperature you press it. It welds everything and it turns into a solid block. Then you start folding and twisting, whatever you do the sky is the limit. That's how you get the different patterning."







Ken is wondering how hard it is to make a sushi knife. Kirby explains, "It can be tricky especially because a sushi knife is a chiseled ground so one side is flat and the other side has the bevel." Ken, "So it's a hard knife to make, it's thin and very long too. How long is this blade (12 inches was the reply) and very lightweight and still balanced."





Ken was wondering what the handle of this knife was made of. Kirby's answer shocked him, "That is woolly mammoth ivory." Ken asks, "Are you allowed to work with that anymore?" Kirby responds with a smile, "Yes because you can't poach them they have been dead for 15,000 years." Ken is now very curious, "Where do you get your hands on woolly mammoth ivory?" Kirby explains, "Various suppliers at different shows that I do. The guy that I buy that from he specializes in mammoth, a lot of it comes from Siberia."



Ice Age centers around a group of mammals surviving the Pleistocene ice age. As of April 2016, the franchise had generated \$6 billion in revenue.





Remember Cassidy watched this evenings episode. She called me right after the Show ended her first words, 'your kidding me dad doesn't know woolly mammoth's are extinct. I texted Caitlyn to tell her'. We did have a good chuckle and she did have a good point, doesn't he remember us watching the Ice Age media franchise (6 films) over and over again. Thanks for indulging my detour from the whatta ya at? but really this wrote itself.

The **woolly mammoth** is an extinct species of mammoth. The appearance and behaviour of this species are among the best studied of any prehistoric animal because of the discovery of frozen carcasses in Siberia and North America. The woolly mammoth was roughly the same size as modern African elephants. It was well adapted to the cold environment during the last ice age. The woolly mammoth coexisted with early humans, who used its bones and tusks for making art, tools, and dwellings, and hunted the species for food. After its extinction, humans continued using its ivory as a raw material, a tradition that continues today. With a genome project completed in 2015, it has been proposed the species could be revived through various means, but none of the methods proposed are yet feasible. I have no doubt sometime in the future the woolly mammoth will make a come back. Ken I'm sure then they will be on the endangered species list.

#### Storytime with Ken Tonight's Story - The Cabin In The Woods



Ken's turn to go off script, he was able to tie it very nicely to the whatta ya at? and surprisingly he was quite accurate in his storytelling. I'm going to contribute to the story.

This is what inspired Ken, "You do custom orders, specific needs for tactical, soldiers, people who have a knife fetish. Well people like Neil who has 70 knives in his house."

Ken now starts the story, "My sister Christine was up for dinner about a year ago. The house was quite crowded. We were getting ready for bed, she didn't have a place to stay so Neil said you can come and crash at my place."

I'll add to the story here. Christine was up for dinner because she had a job the following day so had the night off. She was hired as a judge on a HGTV renovation show. They had her booked into a hotel in Belleville (47 km away). We checked where filming was the following morning and unbelievably it was at a cottage resort right here in Campbellford (3 km away). It only made sense she stay in town. Ken is correct we were crowded, the girls were home as well. Let's go back to Ken.

#### **Renovation Resort Showdown**

Four design couples compete for \$100,000 over a seven week time span to be judged by HGTV stars Scott McGillivray and Brian Baeumler. Each couple is trying to design the best cabin resort beside a lake. Actually the Trent River in our little town of Campbellford. In case you were curious she was a judge on season one, episode four. We no longer have HGTV but I believe the show is now playing.





"Christine didn't really know Neil at the time, she's like 'OK I'm going to go sleep at Neil's'. He drives her out and of course he lives in a cottage in the middle of the woods, in the middle of nowhere. About half an hour later I get a text from Matt my sister's boyfriend, he says 'I just got a text from your sister, she doesn't know where she is, she's in some house and there are knives and swords everywhere, she's kind of freaking out'." Yes Christine and his older sister Paula share Ken's flair for the dramatic.

I'm going to name drop only to show how the Canadian music scene is actually quite small. And to explain our family tree. Christine's boyfriend is Matt Mays (singersongwriter who we have had on the Show-May 25th, 2022). Christine used to be married to Ian Thornley (Big Wreck/Thornley). See a very small and sometimes complicated world. I have reminded Ken he is going to have both his sisters on the Show. They have wonderfully interesting lives who tell wonderfully interesting stories as well!

#### Production Knives

Ken introduces, "You do custom knives and what's called a production line. You come up with a design, you send it to a company, then they manufacture, package, brand it and send it out to stores. You are with a company that you trust implicitly." Kirby agrees, "Yes Reote Knives who in my opinion is the top production company for knives. Their fit and finish, their tolerances, their quality control is bang on in every way."



Ken continues, "As with everything these days, the packaging is perfect. The knife comes in a nice case. Inside the case is the actual knife, any other goodies, stickers (he's always a 14-year-old boy)?" Kirby, "There is extra hardware, there's silver as opposed to the blue and a polish rag for cleaning."



Kirby, "This one is called the Mini Crossroads. Crossroads after Robert Johnson (blues musician). I love music and music history. A lot of the names of my knives come from songs that I have been listening to while designing. This is a mini version of that one." There are three different models,

"this one is the fancy upscale version." Kirby explains, "All three the same design, different materials."



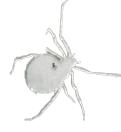


Kirby continues, "This would be the mid dressed version, the handle is made of a material called fat carbon and the blades are stainless steel and satin finished. That one (1st Mini Crossroads shown) is a Damascus blade. These two are hand finished so they are a little bit more money."



Kirby shares, "Here is one of the base model ones with a micarta handle which is layers of canvas and epoxy resin. You can see here on the blade that the grain is not hand finished, it is right off the belt. This is what people would call an EDC, everyday carry knife. The more bling you want you upgrade from there."



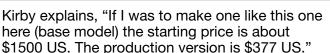


Ken reflects, "Knives are not cheap and you have to think somebody like yourself this is your living. Producing a knife, banging on steel, you can't do 10 a day (Kirby confirms 'definitely not'). That's where the production knives come in because they can do a bunch. I'm going to ask you what is the price range for custom knives, like a custom pocket knife."











The more elaborate versions, "Those ones I would charge in the ballpark of \$2500 US. They sell (production version) for \$880."

Ken, "It's not a cheap thing, you've got 20 years of heavy duty full on immersive experience, that's what you're paying for. You can buy a knife for \$25 at Canadian Tire but I know the knives that I got from you they will be passed on to my kids." Kirby explains, "The one thing with the Reote Knives they are using the same steel, same handle materials, the same stuff that I use in my customs they are using in their production stuff. It's extremely affordable for what you are getting. Your bang for your buck on something like this is way better than a \$50 knife from Canadian Tire." Ken confirming, "These (production knives) will last you forever." Kirby agrees, "They will hold up the same as a custom would because they are made from the exact same materials."

Kirby Lambert is one of the most sought-after custom knifemakers in the world as his pieces are extremely hard to come by. If you're not lucky enough to get drawn in a lottery at one of the shows he attends, then you have little chance in scoring one. The same can be said for his production knives - there's so few of them around and none of them will hold a candle to the quality you see here. So, for all intents and purposes, this production model is your way to get a mid-tech level knife from Kirby Lambert for a very competitive price.







**Masamune** was a medieval Japanese blacksmith widely acclaimed as Japan's greatest swordsmith. No exact dates are known for Masamune's life. It is generally agreed that he made most of his swords between 1288 and 1328.

### Forged In Fire A dream fulfilled...

Ken, "Knife building has taken you around the world, you were telling us over breakfast you went to Japan."

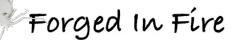
"I just got back, two weeks in Japan. I was invited to a show back in 2019 and when everything shut down so did the show. I finally got a chance. I have wanted to go to Japan since I was eight or nine years old watching ninja movies. My love of making knives has come from wanting to make Japanese swords. I thought I would never get there because once you have a family, certain things get put on the back burner, it all worked out that I was able to go and experience all I've ever wanted to see and more."



Ken, "And you got to hold something centuries old?"

"There was a number of sword museums and an antique Japanese sword shop. They had a sword made by Masamune's father that was built in the 1200s and had been through some of the most historic samurai battles. I got to hold it. It was pretty mind blowing."







Ken, "Anyone looking for a nice custom knife, a really nice gift for the person who has it all. Everybody can use having a nice knife. You also do all different kinds of commissioned work, you can reach out to him online. If you are out shopping for knives and you happen to see the Lambert production models, they look to me to be worthy and I would say it would be a good choice to last you a lifetime."

Ken wraps up the whatta ya at? like a seasoned late night host, "Kirby Lambert thank you for coming on the Show, we really appreciate it, it's good to see you again. Ladies and gentlemen I'm not sure what's coming up next but hold on we will be right back with something. Cheers." All that was missing was, 'back to you Barry.'

It keeps amazing me all the interesting people Ken calls a friend. You just never know what you are going to learn on a Wednesday night when you tune into The Whiskey Wednesday Show.



### whatta ya at? Rick Mercer - The Road Years a memoir continued

Tonight's whatta ya at? was unique, Ken explains, "Ladies and gentlemen welcome to The Whiskey Wednesday Show I am super excited again to welcome back for the second time old friend and notable Canadian presence Mr. Richard Mercer." Rick was one of Ken's first guests way back in April of 2022. It's worth the watch. At the end of this article I have included what I wrote way back then. No need to panic it was only three pages.



Let's get back to tonight's whatta ya at? with Ken wondering, "Does anybody call you Richard (there goes Ken again with his fascination with guests names) I have never heard anybody call you Richard." In essence he answered his own question.

Rick was quick with a comeback turning around and looking at his bookcase he says, "I was just quickly scanning my background because I thought have I, no, it's all good. No one ever called me Richard, ever. There was a brief period when I was called Dick and I put the kibosh on that."

Rick's turn to wonder, "Anyone ever call you Kenneth?" Ken shares, "My mom (not all the time only) when she said Kenneth I knew you might be in trouble or you better listen. Somebody tried Kenny at some point but that didn't work." Rick agrees, "No, no you don't want that. Nothing against the Kenny's out there." Ken continues, "I knew some Kenny's growing up and they were just scrappy dickheads, always looking to fight." Rick shares, "That wasn't you, you were a boy of peace. It's good to be here, thank you for having me back."

And with that Part 1 officially starts, "Rick you have been busy doing press, you are on a book tour currently. I have your old book here which we chatted about years ago, *Talking To Canadians*. Now you have a new book out which picks off where that one lays off."

Rick shares, "Yes I have a new book out and I'm on tour. For the last book there was no in person press because of the pandemic. There were no book signings and no performance events. This time I did Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I'm doing Ottawa. I've already done Halifax, St. John's, I did Winnipeg, Sarnia. I have done a lot of spots, it's great."





Ken, "You have been tying some of these in with your old friend Jann Arden who you talk a lot about in the book as well."

Rick shares, "Yes Jann has a full chapter in the book. I bumped into Jann in Palm Springs of all places. It has been the only time I have left the country since the pandemic. I haven't traveled at all but when I was finishing this book I needed to get out of the house. I wanted to go somewhere warm for two weeks because I knew I was just going to be working and working.







#### SEE JANN ARDEN AND RICK MERCER ON TOUR TOCETHER



I looked at Jann's Instagram and it was very similar to the view that I had. I texted her, 'yes I am in Palm Springs' she was literally three doors down which is bizarre. We went to have lunch and I told her when my book was coming out and she said my book is coming out that week as well we should do some events.

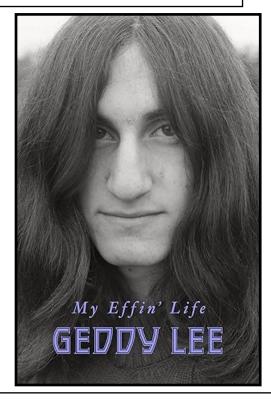
And flash forward we had 1100 people at the Chan Centre in Vancouver, we sold out everywhere we went, we did four events. It was fun being out on the road with her. She's good at being out on the road as you can imagine. You only want to be out with people on the road who will be in the lobby at 5:50 AM when they say they're going to be. That's her."

Ken shares, "I don't know Jann at all but everyone I know that has any contact with her, she seems to be the most superhuman person on the planet."

Rick agrees and shares a story, "Yes she's lovely. She gets into trouble a lot. Traveling with her was a little interesting because she was tweeting about when Pierre Poilievre (leader of the The Conservative Party of Canada) spoke into the microphone on a WestJet flight saying 'well there's Liberal turbulence ahead, don't worry we are going to fix it' blah blah blah. Jann was off her head tweeting about it, she got all worked up and said 'I'm never traveling WestJet again'. I texted her immediately and said 'take that down'. You live in western Canada, you are in show business. She's a wonderful person."

Jann Arden is a multi-platinum, awardwinning singer, songwriter, actor and author. Arden has released 15 albums with 19 top ten singles. Arden's accolades include 8 JUNO Awards including Female Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year, 10 SOCAN Awards and 4 Western Canadian Music Awards to name a few. In 2020, she was announced as an inductee into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and has also been inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, has a Star on Canada's Walk of Fame and has been awarded the Order of Canada.





Ken had good news to share, "Your new book did hit number one on the best seller list a few weeks ago, I'm sure it's still up there." Rick, "It's still up there. We were number one for two weeks and then we were hit by hurricane Geddy of course because Geddy Lee has a book out too. Usually every time I do a book you always have to worry about the hockey player. There's a big hockey player book that comes out every Christmas and everybody buys it for their dads. So that's what you have to deal with. My publisher said to me two months ago the good news there is no hockey book this year. I said 'wicked' but there is a Geddy Lee book. His book is now a best seller all over the world, obviously in this country there is a lot of interest reading Geddy's book."

Ken observed there is no competing with Rush, Rick agrees and shares, "There is actually a chapter in the book about Rush. I was never a crazy Rush fan although I took drum lessons to sound like Neil Peart in grade 7 and 8 from Don Weary who you probably know or remember. I quickly realized I would never sound like Neil Peart from Rush and dropped that. But Neil Peart came on the show."

**Geddy Lee** is one of rock and roll's most respected bassists. For nearly five decades, his playing and work as cowriter, vocalist and keyboardist has been an essential part of the success story of Canadian progressive rock trio Rush. Here for the first time is his account of life inside and outside the band.

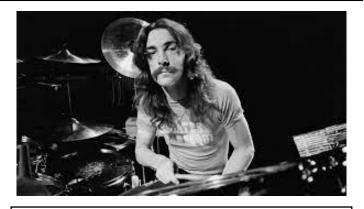
Long before Rush accumulated more consecutive gold and platinum records than any rock band after the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, before the seven Grammy nominations or the countless electrifying live performances across the globe, Geddy Lee was Gershon Eliezer Weinrib, after his grandfather was murdered in the Holocaust.

As he recounts the transformation, Lee looks back on his family, in particular his loving parents and their horrific experiences as teenagers during World War II. He talks candidly about his childhood and the pursuit of music that led him to drop out of high school.

He tracks the history of Rush which, after early struggles, exploded into one of the most beloved bands of all time. He shares intimate stories of his lifelong friendships with bandmates Alex Lifeson and Neil Peart—deeply mourning Peart's recent passing—and reveals his obsessions in music and beyond. This rich brew of honesty, humor, and loss makes for a uniquely poignant memoir

Rick continues, "I should talk about the book, the book is called *The Road Years*. It's about my experiences and some of them are insane. Like Neil Peart coming on the show. Neil is no longer with us, he's deceased. Neil famously had a pretty tragic life, in the last part of his life he suffered great loss. He lost his wife and child and he retired from being a rockstar. He was only a rockstar when he was behind the drums. Other than that he didn't do media, meet and greets, he didn't do anything. He just gave that up and I don't blame him.





**Neil Peart** was a Canadian musician, best known as the drummer and primary lyricist of the rock band Rush. Peart earned numerous awards for his musical performances, including an induction into the *Modern Drummer* Readers Poll Hall of Fame in 1983 at the age of thirty, making him the youngest person ever so honoured. He was known to fans by the nickname 'The Professor'. His drumming was renowned for its technical proficiency and his live performances for their exacting nature and stamina.

He agreed to come on the show and he was funny, self deprecating, he gave me a drum lesson on the Rush drum kit, which spun around and had gold plates on it. He did a private drum solo for myself and Don and John who I traveled with. Those experiences you'll never forget. That's one of the ones in the book for sure."

Ken summarizes, "That's what the book is about, this 15 year period you started The Mercer Report, highly directed by Gerald in the way that it was going to go. I've heard you say in many instances, it's going to live or die on the road." Rick agrees, "The show would live or die on the road. There was going to be comedy, going





to be sketches, the rants, it was going to be all the things that I did previous. But yeah Gerald said that's not going to make the show famous or not. If it's going to become a famous show it's going to happen on the road and it did.

I knew it would work. I was nervous because I didn't have a lot of experience just being dropped into a place where I am talking to an oyster fisherman. But it turns out that I like that. And I like taking an oyster fisherman and putting him on television and making him look like a rockstar. Making him come across great. Because quite often the people that I had on the show had never been on TV before and will probably never be on TV again. Maybe had never even seen a television camera for God's sakes. But they trusted

me. I don't have a lot of skills but I became very good at taking those people and making them look great. And getting a story out of them even though they weren't the drummer for Rush.

The book is about that but it's also about Prime Ministers I crossed paths with and just regular folks. It's all the stories I would tell if I was sitting around telling stories basically."

Ken, "Like I said it's from farming and fishing to fighter jets. I mean you do everything."



Rick Mercer The Road Years

Ken asked Rick to explain an exciting ride called the Train of Death. Here's the background story from Rick, "After a couple of years we started doing these segments dubbed 'host in peril'. We determined the audience really liked it when I was either in danger or in great discomfort or terrified or unable to do a task that other people could do. That's why I ended up doing demolition derbies or window washing the Scotiabank Tower or any of those things that freak people out."



"But yes things got a little carried away, I actually thought I was going to die when I did something called the Train of Death. What went through my mind was OMG I'm going to die or I'm going to end up in a wheelchair or I'm going to be in a serious car accident, if I was going to die it would be a comedy death."



"It would be one of those things that people would just joke about. 'Oh Rick Mercer died, oh that's terrible, how did he die? Was it his heart? No he was doing the Train of Death. Oh, and that didn't work out'."



"I compare it to, I remember watching a news anchor report that the president of the Exotic Pet Owners Association of Canada was eaten by his pet lion that he kept as a pet in his living room. And watching the news anchor report that without smiling or laughing. That is a comedy death."

#### Train of Death





I always loved how Rick would introduce the location, "**Varney** Ontario (small community in Gray County) is not just the birthplace of 1936 Olympic featherweight wrestler John Vern Pettigrew, oh no that's just the tip of the iceberg. It's also home to the worlds largest Adirondack chair (20 ft. tall/14 ft. wide) and the featest quester mile

and the fastest quarter-mile race track in all of southern Ontario. This week the Mercer Report hits the Varney Motor Speedway and finds out what it takes to compete in something they call the Train of Death.



Rick explains, "Train of Death by the way quickly, three cars chained together, 25 feet of chain in between each car.

The car in the front has an engine no brakes, the car in the middle has no engine and no brakes and the car at the back where I was has no engine but brakes. And when you hit the brakes you just go (makes swishing sounds and moves hands back-and-forth), you whip around and slam into the car in front of you. You're dying so you're instinct is to hit the brakes but you whip around and slam again. It was terrifying."

Ken looked up the video, "Your facial expressions during that clip..." Rick finished his sentence, "I really thought I was going to die. Don my cameraman heard me swearing and he knew I was in serious trouble because there is no scenario where I would swear while the cameras were rolling. We were an 8 o'clock show so if you swore it was not usable. I just wouldn't swear. Then he heard me, 'oh I think he might be dying' and then John my director went 'what'. Then they managed to get a message to the guy who came out with the flag to stop the entire thing. But I had to do it again, I had to do take two."

The video is on YouTube. Like Ken I also looked it up and it does not disappoint, it is very entertaining. Imagine three bumper cars attached to each other.

Ken steers the whatta ya at? in a different direction, "One thing that I wanted to mention which is really cool you talk about meeting up with Belinda Stronach and doing the Spread The Net campaign. I remember doing a fundraiser, it must've been 15 years ago where we donated proceeds to that as well. That wasn't directly related to the show but you talk about it. As a person who has a fairly large clout as a media person, you have to be fairly selective of what you get behind otherwise your face would be on everything. What was the decision-making process that brought you to that one?"



Rick explains, "I interviewed Belinda on the show when she was a Conservative Member of Parliament. She had just famously ran for the leadership of the Conservatives. She had gotten beaten quite badly by Stephen Harper. While she was running she was asked win or lose will you run for election, 'yes I will'. Nobody ever does that but she did and she ran in Newmarket. A safe Liberal riding and she was elected as a Conservative. I interviewed her and it wasn't a very good interview. She was great off camera but on camera it just wasn't great. It became evident to me, this was only a theory, that she was unhappy with the Conservatives. Gay marriage was a big thing at the time, Stephen Harper was decidedly against gay marriage and she was for gay marriage. That was a big issue in the leadership campaign.

**Belinda Stronach** is a Canadian businesswoman and philanthropist, and was a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons of Canada from 2004 to 2008. Originally elected as a Conservative, she later crossed the floor to join the Liberals. Stronach was the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister responsible for Democratic Renewal in the government of Paul Martin. After leaving politics, she served as the executive vice-chairman of Magna International, Canada's largest automotive parts manufacturer, until 2010.

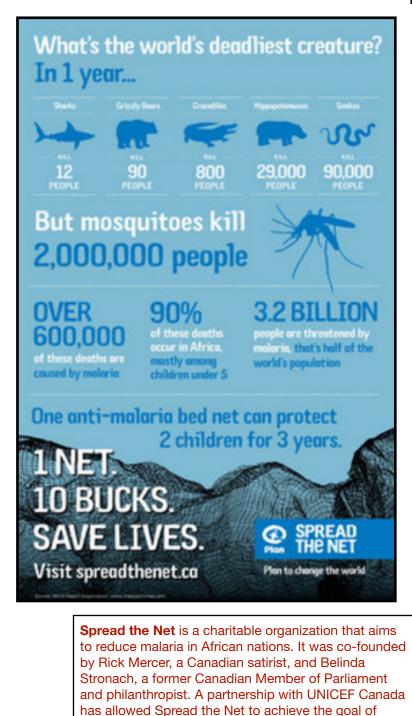
Off camera we discussed the work of Dr. Jeffrey Sachs who was doing a lot of aid work in Africa, he was the United Nations lead guy there. She said I'm going to go to Africa one of these days and watch him in action. You should come with me. And I thought it was just the kind of thing a rich person says, like 'we should get a coffee' but their version is like 'let's go to Africa'. I didn't pay any attention to it and then she sent me his latest book, I read it, I found it interesting.

And then she crossed the floor famously and became a Liberal and became a Cabinet Minister. Her EA called me up and said Belinda is going to Africa to follow Dr. Jeffrey Sachs around as a private citizen not as a Cabinet Minister, would you like to go? I had always avoided politicians, the most I might have a cup of coffee with one in an airport. But in those days I just avoided them, I didn't want to become friends with any of them.



For some reason I decided to take this trip and it was quite an eye-opener. We went to like six countries. In some areas we experienced poverty I knew intellectually existed but I didn't know what it was like to experience it. We were in a place where there was nothing, no economy at all, there were no schools, nowhere to buy food, the crops that were growing were clearly failing, people were clearly unwell, there was no medical assistance. I noticed there were no children around. Dr. Sachs told us that in the previous year most of the children had died.

I asked him what's the difference between this place and where we were yesterday which was just 500 km away. And there was a school, corn growing, there was a small clinic, children everywhere. And he said well that community that we were in had the inputs that they needed. As a starter they had bed nets for the children so they would not get malaria and die.

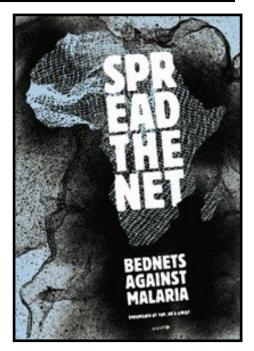


distributing 500,000 insecticide-treated bed nets to Liberia and Rwanda. Spread the Net now works with its

partners to combat malaria. The campaign has donated over 539,000 nets since its founding.

laria and die. But they also had fertilizer to grow crops, they had funding for the clinic, etc. which was what he was all about.

When we walked back to the van Belinda said to me 'well I guess we



are going to have to find a way to buy a lot of bed nets', 'what does a bed net cost?' and she said 'well does it matter?' and I said 'no I guess not'.

We started this organization called Spread The Net, we fund raised like mad people for a couple of years and bought a lot of nets."



Rick Mercer The Road Years

Rick continues, "I never mentioned it on the show because well it's not a funny topic for starters and ultimately we were a comedy show. It was like church and state, I never let those two things cross. And then we did a contest one week where we challenged high school students to raise money for Spread The Net. We would come to their school and shoot a piece. I thought we would raise a couple grand maybe if we were lucky. It just took off like crazy. High school students all over the country signed up. Then we started getting essentially hate mail from elementary students going 'what about us, why can't we join'. So eventually the contest spread to include junior high and elementary.



Over the years millions and millions of dollars have been raised. I didn't do any of it, I didn't raise one of those dollars, it was all students around the country. It was always the last or second last episode of the show where I would travel around to all these schools. It was always my favorite show, I loved it, it was phenomenal.

Belinda and I became friends, I just avoided talking about her on the show and we are friends to this day."

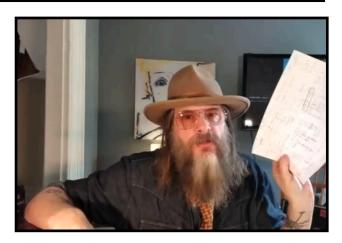


The Spread the Net Student Challenge unites schools across Canada to join the fight to end malaria – a deadly disease that kills nearly 438,000 people every year. Since 2007, Spread the Net has helped protect the lives of almost 32 million people by contributing to the delivery of over 15.3 million malaria-preventing bed nets to families in Africa. To date, over 800 schools across Canada have participated in the Student Challenge, raising more than \$1.6 million for life-saving bed nets that protect children and families. The competition has been presented to schools across Canada, and the school that raises the most to donate would be visited by Rick Mercer. The challenge includes post-secondary, secondary, and elementary school divisions, and one wild-card winner.

**Rick Mercer** *The Road Years* 

Ken starts wrapping up Part 1, "You have had an amazing career and now with these two books you have really summed up your childhood, how you got into what you do, the development of 22 Minutes and now with the new book you have talked about the Mercer Report. I had to make notes there is so much to talk to you about Rick. All I can say is for people to get the books, read them, it's really interesting, it's funny, it's entertaining.

As you said you set out to find out what it is to be Canadian and you realized how broad a question that is. And I think in just talking to people, from farmers to politicians, you have covered so much ground and it's amazing what you've done."









Rick reflects, "Thanks! I didn't know if I would like writing a memoir. The first one I didn't like. I was forced into it basically out of circumstance because of the pandemic. You know what it was like everybody in show business was told oh you have to go home and work. And you are like I don't know how you do that in show business. Your unemployed at home that's what that means.

You started Whiskey Wednesday, I wrote a book. And I would never have done it if I had been able to stay on the road. So I did it out of necessity and I found it hard to write.

Now with this book I didn't find hard because it's just fun stories. My rule was I was only going to do a story if it was funny. People can use funny now more than ever. I really enjoyed it.

I like the book writing business but thank God I have run out of runway, there's no more memoirs because this one goes basically up to now. So I just have to figure out what to write about next."

Ken then made a very good point, "You still have a lot of road ahead of you."

Rick ends part one with humour of course, "Sure, but it's not going to be a memoir. Two is enough. Who am I Alan Doyle?"

But the fun was just beginning Ken had a game planned to play with Rick.

#### I wonder what Rick would choose?

Ken's introduction, "Before we go Rick I was digging through some records this morning and I thought oh I wonder what Rick would choose and then I thought I'm going to play a little game here." Rick responds, "Oh, I will have to put my old man glasses on." He was then ready to play.

Ken has taken a page out of Letterman or Ellen's (depending on your age) 'host book', they loved playing games with guests too.



**Bad Habits** is an album by **The Monks**, released in 1979. It is a spoof of punk rock led by the former rhythm section of the trad rockers, Strawbs. The album was surprisingly, and nearly exclusively, very popular in Canada, made no impact in the States, and very little in the band's native United Kingdom.

Part 2



**Generation X** were an English punk rock band, formed in London in 1976. They were the musical starting point of the career of their frontman Billy Idol. *Gen X* was their first studio album which was released in the United Kingdom in 1978.



This game had only one rule, "You have got to get rid of one of these albums. We are going to do a few of them."

Rick's reaction to the first round of records, "Oh no, no, no, no. *Bad Habits* what a great album." Ken clarifies, "Generation X, if you get rid of this one you're also getting rid of all of Billy Idol too." Rick clarifies, "So I'm erasing him."

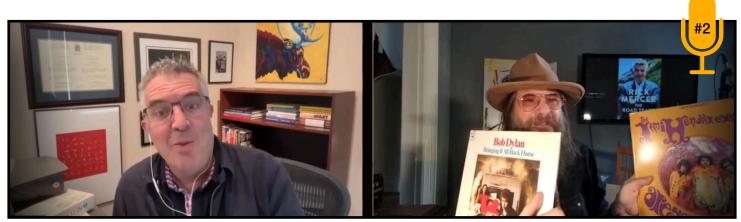
Rick has made his choice, "I love *Bad Habits*, it's a great album, there are so many hits on it. *Nice Legs Shame About Her Face*, would never be recorded today, thank God (I think it's hilariously fantastic). As far as I know it was only a hit album in Canada. They don't know this music elsewhere. Where are they from?"

Ken explains, "They are from England, they are called the Strawbs.



They were a pop band and everybody in England turned their backs on them because they were a pop act. So they actually put it out through a French label and when they were saying the name I think it was the Mumps and the French translator called it the Monks."

I agree with Rick I absolutely love *Bad Habits* and it is often on our record player. I am announcing it here in 2024 the Goats will be doing their version of at least two Monks songs. I think we would all agree one should be their hit song *Drugs in My Pocket* which will compliment *Pain Free Living* on a Wednesday night. There are so many other choices, mind you some more appropriate than others...*Johnny B. Rotten, Love in Stereo, Ain't Gettin' Any, No Shame*, and of course *Bad Habits*.



Round two started, "Next up, this is a really tough one." Rick is wondering, "What am I playing, who must die and who must live, Bob Dylan or Jimi Hendrix. Well I guess I would have to say Bob produced a bit more music." Ken agrees, "True enough so we are going on volume with this one."



**Jimi Hendrix's** career spanned from 1962 to 1970. Prior to his rise to fame, he recorded 24 singles as a backing guitarist with American R&B artists, such as the Isley Brothers and Little Richard. Beginning in late 1966, he recorded three best-selling studio albums and 13 singles with the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

**Bob Dylan** has released 40 studio albums, 96 singles, 54 music videos, 15 live albums, 22 box sets, and 7 soundtracks. Dylan has been the subject of seven documentaries, starred in three theatrical films, appeared in an additional eight films and 10 home videos, and is the subject of the semi-biographical tribute film *I'm Not There*. He has written and published lyrics, artwork and memoirs in 11 books and three of his songs have been made into children's books.





Ken thought if he really wanted to make it interesting he should've put Rush up against The Tragically Hip. That's an impossible decision you don't win either way you choose.

Ken starts round three, "I think this one will be easy for you, Rush or R.E.M.? Rick's decision, "I'm not answering that. I'm Captain Canada for God's sakes. I just can't do that."





Next up was Crowded House or Radiohead? Let's find out Rick's choice, "Both great albums but I am agnostic on both of them." Ken replied, "oh good for you" and Rick asked "were you a big Radiohead guy?" Ken shares, "No, just *The Bends*. *The Bends* I loved."



I was curious to find out Rick's choice in the next round, "This one is terribly hard, you have Prince and Beastie Boys."

Rick found it easy to choose, "Oh no, I would take *Purple Rain*, I would take Prince (Ken I think surprised 'good choice'). I appreciate the Beastie Boys but again it was not something that I listened to extensively."

Ken agrees with his choice, "And *Purple Rain* was a part of our youth." Rick, "I didn't know that you could make a movie like that at the time, it was kind of mind blowing. No one has really done it since."

**Purple Rain** is a 1984 American rock musical drama scored by and starring Prince in his acting debut. Developed to showcase his talents, it contains several concert sequences, featuring Prince and his band The Revolution.

Purple Rain grossed \$70.3 million worldwide, against its \$7.2 million budget. The film won an Academy Award for Best Original Song Score. Publications and critics have regarded Purple Rain as one of the greatest musical films. In 2019, the film was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the United States National Film Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

Purple Rain was supported with its soundtrack album of the same name, which featured two US chart-topping singles, "When Doves Cry" and "Let's Go Crazy", as well as the number-two hit "Purple Rain". The soundtrack is certified 13× Platinum and has sold over 25 million copies worldwide.





What will Rick choose Bad Brains (hard-core punk) or The Clash? He chose, "I would keep The Clash of course." No surprise to Ken, "I knew you would do that one."



But Ken was surprised about something else, "How is it that you played drums in grade 7 and 8 and you never ended up playing drums with any of us once we got to high school?" Rick, "I wasn't

good enough." Ken shared a valid point, "Nobody was good enough back then." Rick reflected, "I know, if I had my time back I probably could have.





I played drums twice on the show. Once was with The Trews, *Not Ready To Go*, which was great fun. It's a great rock 'n' roll song but it's as simple a song that you could play the drums on. That was really exciting for me. A real rockstar experience because it was in front of a crowd. That's the only drumming in public I've ever done.





And of course I got the drum lesson from Neil Peart which was a little nerve-racking. It was always best if you could do something a little bit. I'm an OK skater, not much of a skater but I'm happy to play hockey against NHL players. Or figure skate with a Canadian champion because I can skate a little bit. If you can't skate at all it's really not that interesting a segment.



So luckily with Neil Peart I could play a little bit. If I had never sat behind a drum kit something like that really wouldn't have worked. No matter what I was doing I was tried my best, it would be always good if you had a little bit of knowledge. Like there is no point going 'ok I'm going to try to ride a unicycle' if you actually don't know how to do it a little bit. Otherwise you are just flopping off the unicycle for 5 1/2 minutes.

But I digress, let this horrible game continue." As Ken said this was one of his favorite moments.



Ken was ready with the next decision, "We've got the Stray Cats and The Replacements." Rick contemplated, "I'd keep The Replacements." You could tell it was a hard decision, Ken agreed, "I'm with you on that one as much as I love the Stray Cats." Rick comes back with a one-liner, "These are like Sophie's Choice." Ken sort of apologizes, "I know this is all horrible." Rick disagrees, "No no, it's good. It's making me go 'I should go listen to that'. I haven't listened to that in a long time."

We are down to the final round of 'I wonder what Rick will choose?' guest friendly game. Ken builds drama by looking off camera at the records and says, "This last one is really tough. I don't even think I could choose this one."



**Figgy Duff** was a Canadian folk-rock band. They played a major role in the Newfoundland cultural renaissance of the 1970s and 1980s. Formed in 1976 by Noel Dinn, who named the band after a traditional pudding, Figgy Duff travelled across Newfoundland, learning traditional songs and performing them with distinct elements of rock and roll. Ken revealing the choices, "You've got Figgy Duff and The Wonderful Grand Band." What will Rick choose? "Well you know the Wonderful Grand Band was the most influential comedy act in my life and also Ron Hynes was the lead singer of the band portion and he is Newfoundland's greatest songwriter. I think you have heard of him. I would obviously have to pick the Wonderful Grand Band. Also Ron was a buddy of mine and I didn't know the Figgy Duff crowd."

Ken shares, "Ok that makes sense. I didn't know the Figgy Duff crowd well (they both agree they knew them a 'little bit') but I think Figgy Duff probably had a stronger mark on Newfoundland traditional style of things then Ron did but Ron had a further reach with his brilliant songwriting." Rick sums it up, "Without Figgy Duff there wouldn't have been a Grand Band."



The **Wonderful Grand Band** is a St. John's music and comedy group formed in 1978. They released their first album, *The Wonderful Grand Band*, in 1979. The group had a television musical variety show on CBC Television. This ran for six episodes under the title *The Root Seller* in 1978, before relaunching in 1980 as *The Wonderful Grand Band*, which produced 40 more episodes between 1980 and 1983. The show combined original and traditional music with topical comedy sketches and satire, some of which was directed at the CBC itself.











The game was over, the whatta ya at? was not. The boys get a little philosophical. But first Ken apologizes again, "That one was a little bit unfair as they all were. Sorry for springing that on you." And again Rick does not accept his apology, sees the positive and learns something in the process, "No, no that's good. You have the vinyl, I don't have vinyl. The world is so weird now, I go 'oh I don't have that record' but of course I can listen to it in a second on my phone. I feel like if the Stray Cats was on vinyl over there I might listen to it occasionally while I never listen to it and it's in my phone." Ken agrees, "It forces me."

Rick tries to invent a new word, "But I'm not a vinyl guy. Is there a word for somebody who has a vinyl collection but it's completely pretend. 'Oh I've got this huge vinyl collection that I never ever play' what would that person be? Like 'vinyl for looks'."

Ken shares his opinion which led to a shocking revelation, "It would have to be someone with a lot of money. Records are too expensive now to have. You are paying \$50-\$70 for a record now." Rick appalled, "WHAT, you see I didn't know that. But of course these are the days that we live in where you go '\$3.50 for a KitKat are you crazy'. I didn't know that records cost that much.

How much is the new Ron tribute album, I do have that on vinyl although I have nothing to play it on. That would be like 50 bucks or something?" Ken, "I'm sure it's \$40-\$45 dollars. Fred's (Records Store) does things a little bit differently because they deal with local artists. The average price for a new piece of vinyl is \$35 and if it's something special it will be up to \$70-\$75."

Rick sees a bright side and then shares what he's been up to, "Well I'm glad that's an addiction that I don't have. I finally got around to cleaning up my basement and there is literally 350 CDs. They are all junk, I can't bring myself to throw them out because every time I go 'oh, oh that's good' (he makes this anguished expression pictured here). I actually don't have anything to play it on anymore. Half of them are probably corrupted by now." This leads to a debate and a mini Rick Mercer Rant. Ken feels, "No they will stay forever, CDs won't change." Rick disagrees, "Yes they will."

### The Indestructible CD

(A Rick Mercer Mini Rant)



"I remember when CDs were on the cover of Time magazine."



"... if your house burns down and all that's left is ash..."



"And they were heralding the CD, talk about hype, I remember in the article they said..."



"... people will be able to go in, take the CDs out, rinse them under warm water



"... and you will get pristine sound."



"That's how they were sold ... "



"... amazing sound ... "



"... and indestructible. Of course neither was true."



Ken shares his perspective, "I'm kind of over the CD thing. There was a few years where I was like 'oh no CDs are disappearing' and then I got back into vinyl. And as you say I pay the \$14 a month, I have every album that has ever been put out in the world right here on my phone that I can listen to at any point."

This lead Rick down another interesting path which lead to a math lesson and a record recommendation.

Rick explains, "I just listened to the Trans-Canada Highwaymen. Have you heard that album yet? (Ken has not) It's a great album but it bugs the hell out of me that I'm giving them four cents instead of five bucks. You've got four great lead singers. People like me buying, well not buying the record listening to the record. How much am I giving them Ken?"

He explains the sad reality, "Zero! You've got to listen to it 500 times before it turns into pennies." Rick in disbelief. "You mean

I'm not giving them anything, I've listened to it four or five times." Ken figured out the math calculations to share with viewers and explained, "Four or five times probably a nickel." Rick's astute observation, "Wow no wonder you guys never get off the road."



Spotify pays artists between \$0.003 - \$0.005 per stream 14 songs on album = 14 streams 5 listens to the whole record = 70 streams Total \$0.21 T0 \$0.35

Rick is then pleased to share, "It's a great

album, Trans-Canada Highwaymen, I highly recommend it if you like 70s Canadian music because it's all covers." Ken agrees, "You've got The Pursuit of Happiness, Barenaked Ladies, Sloan and the Odds. Four amazing bands on their own doing Canadian super music." Rick was excited to share some song titles, "Tonite Is A Wonderful Time To Fall In Love (April Wine) Undone (The Guess Who), it's just fun. The first time I listened to it I knew it was all covers so I intentionally didn't look so every song was a surprise. I am a sucker for that era. Like Which Way You Goin' Billy? (the Poppy Family) not everyone wants to hear another version of that but I'm happy to." ourite songs of the 's sung by your ts of the 80's & Odds Moe Berg

The Pursuit of Happiness



Craig Northey

Stephen Page **Barenaked** Ladies

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Rick Mercer The Road Years

#### The Whiskey Wednesday Clubhouse

The Rick Mercer Edition

The Clubhouse was very active during the whatta ya at? video viewing party. Apologies I am sure I missed a few.
"Great interview. I like the album comparisons. Interesting to hear the choices."
"It was a great show. I really enjoy Rick Mercer and having him on your show made me come back to Whiskey Wednesday, after more than one year break. Greetings from Calgary!"
"Long live vinyl Rick!!" "Write a book about Ken."
"Hi Raeanne, great painting behind Ken!" Yes I agree we could see the beautiful Dame. Raeanne posted, "Congrats Rick. Fab book....but I've not read Geddy's yet."
I am sure she especially enjoyed the Jann Arden stories. As she explained to viewers when she was a guest on the Show (February, 2023), Raeanne used to be Jann's assistant.

As regulars know all too well Ken always likes to end the whatta ya at? with an unexpected and always entertaining twist. Let's see what he does this time, "Rick thank you again for taking the time to come on the Show, I know you are real busy. It's great to see you face-to-face, what are you using in your hair, is that a gel or a mousse or is this all natural?"



Rick shares, "There is one right here, it's like a pomade, it's the same thing I've used for 25 years (Ken is wondering what brand). I'm not telling you what brand it is not unless they send me a bloody case.

And I will tell you that is the one thing I missed after 15 years on television, I had to go and buy my own pomade. There was always one around. It's like getting out of prison that's my hardship, he has to buy his own pomade."

Rick had a question for Ken, "What are you putting in your hair?" Ken, "I have no hair to put anything in (Rick was wondering about his beard). Every now and again I will put some beard oil in it. It makes it smell like wood and leather, it's supposed to make me smell sexy." I cannot confirm or deny because I try to stay far away from his beard I see him eat, chicken wings are especially messy.

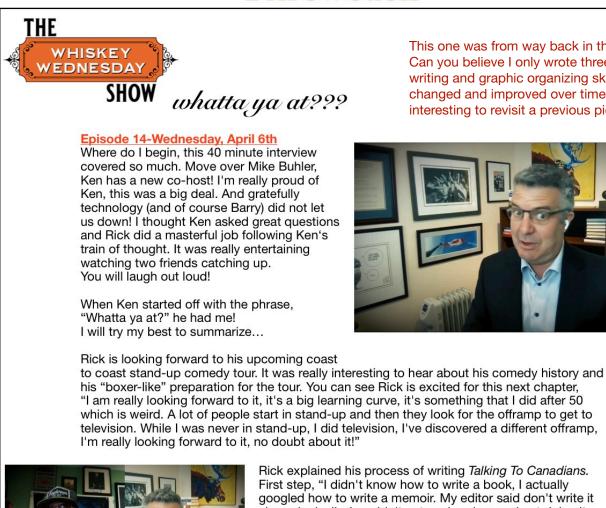


I think Rick enjoyed and appreciated the humorous ending. And while I was writing this article Ken with a smile admitted to me he thinks he caught Rick off guard. He needs to write another book because we have to have Rick back on the Show for the hat-trick. I needed to explain this hockey term to Ken!



hrowback

#### From the April, 2022 Wrap-Up Newsletter



This one was from way back in the early days. Can you believe I only wrote three pages? My writing and graphic organizing skills I feel have changed and improved over time. It's always interesting to revisit a previous piece of work.



his "boxer-like" preparation for the tour. You can see Rick is excited for this next chapter, "I am really looking forward to it, it's a big learning curve, it's something that I did after 50 which is weird. A lot of people start in stand-up and then they look for the offramp to get to television. While I was never in stand-up, I did television, I've discovered a different offramp, Rick explained his process of writing Talking To Canadians.



First step, "I didn't know how to write a book, I actually googled how to write a memoir. My editor said don't write it chronologically, I couldn't get my head around not doing it chronologically. So I started chronologically. Then he told me to stop. When I stopped is when I moved to Toronto to start the Mercer Report." Ken asked, "... is there a part two?" to which Rick replied, "well I'm no fool Ken... yes I think there will be a second book... yes it will be on the Mercer Report years...'

#### One highlight moment for me was when Ken shared,

"Reading your book again, really reminded me how you guys especially with 22 minutes, you took it from scratch. You know you were working out of a trailer, your set was a desk, you had very little budget. I have always enjoyed things that have come out of that, the most gratifying things in my world have come out of, you said it best in the book. There was no money but I was on the show, I had something. That is the way I have lived my life and this is fantastic to see that grow, you've done it so many times."

Loved Rick's response, "I realized that my failures have always been well funded and my

successes have always been drastically underfunded. And I don't know if that's because you just have to step up to the plate and make up for the fact that there is no money but that is certainly a pattern ... " Rick then shared the interesting history on the infamous "Rant" that he developed and ended this section with "I am not suggesting we starve artists to get good work out of them ... " I agree!





I found it mesmerizing to watch both of them go back-andforth seamlessly telling hilarious stories about growing up together and reflecting on the early days of St. John's theatre community. Way too much to cover so I'm just going to throw out key phrases... clean cut punk rocker (or was he?); the 20 Minute Psychiatric Workout show; the band WAFUT; theatre

teacher Lois Brown; Mike Wade and 1 Hayward Avenue; and touring with The Amazing Glenn who walked on flaming glass. Rick tells this story about Ken's summer job like you have never heard it before! Did you know Stand By Me was actually our wedding song? You will have to watch the interview to figure out why this is significant!

Will Rick "Talk to Americans" again or finally run for Prime Minister of Canada? You'll have to watch (or listen to the podcast) to find out!

We are so lucky that Ken is so technologically savvy. He did a fantastic job adding visuals and commentary to the interview. If you watched it live, I suggest you watch the updated version. Ken adds his humorous personal touch!



I was smiling proudly when Rick talked about our little Whiskey Wednesday Show, "... you know I spent all last summer (watching the Show), I would be out in the backyard, I would put the laptop on, it was great..." and "I always love watching Whiskey Wednesday and I see in the comments people we went to high school with, I got to say I get a real kick out of that."







Mike Wade

We knew instantly who he was talking

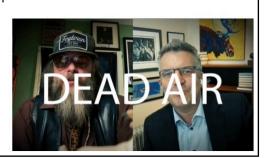
about when Rick said, "who's doing your switching, it's really good... it's a great show, it should be on the network... the sound is great, the lighting is great, it's a great show" (he was referring to Barry of course) and "you are a very dapper band, two of you are wearing ties, so great to see Steve behind the drums doing well... I love the band, so I am thrilled to be on the Show."

And just in case any viewers missed it our very own Aunt Betty shared this comment, "Hi Rick. I am watching from Mount Pearl every week and am related to Ken. Reading your book right now." We just love you Aunt Betty! Yes we are working on Sorry Aunt Betty merchandise and if you don't know who Aunt Betty is you will have to tune in.

I would like to share when capturing these screenshots from the interview I quickly realized Rick's facial expressions are fantastic!

I think you will agree this special interview needed two pages.

Pretty sure Rick has never had an interview written like this before! All spoken into my phone, in my bed, under the studio!





#### The Whiskey Wednesday Show Setlists

#### Episode 14-Wednesday, April 6th

Song #1NO CHANGE IN ME - Ron Hynes

Song #2MAN OF A THOUSAND SONGS - Ron Hynes

Song #3POLICE ON MY BACK - The Clash

#### Whatta Ya At?: RICK MERCER

Song #4COAST TO COAST FEVER - David Wiffen

Song #5A GOOD DOG IS LOST - Ron Hynes

Song #6ST.JOHN'S WALTZ - Ron Hynes

Gear TalkMAESTRO PEDALS

Song #71962 - Ron Hynes

Song #8ST.JOHN'S WALTZ - Ron Hynes



This was a very funny moment in the interview. Rick had a lot of difficulty showing a page from his book on the screen. You see everything is backwards. It took me a while, but I captured this screenshot with Rick pointing directly at Ken. Can you find Rick? Hint Lois Brown is looking right at him! There are many other Whiskey



Wednesday viewers in this photo... Clark Hancock, Ashley Billard and Andrew Younghusband to name a few. I am going to get Ken to do a "show and share" on an upcoming episode!

#### Episode 15-Wednesday, April 13th

Tonight was the contest giveaway for the autographed copy of Rick's book. To win, Ken asked a question about Rick's guest appearance from last week.



I did chuckle when I saw one viewers comment, "I think the contests are unfair for most of the audience. Having a couple puffs or taking edibles you can't watch and listen at the same time." OK, maybe a valid point but you could always listen to the podcast the next day, lol!

By the way the answer was Foxtrap! Song #1 JUDGEMENT - Ron Hynes

Song #2 GOOD IN GOODBYE - Ken Tizzard and Music For Goats

Song #3 MAD WORLD - Tears For Fears

Whatta Ya At?: Joey Serlin

Song #4 HIGHWAY PATROLMAN - Bruce Springsteen

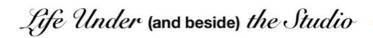
Song #5 ALL GONE - - Ken Tizzard and Music For Goats

Song #6 OVER YOU - - Ken Tizzard and Music For Goats

#### Gear TalkMAESTRO PEDALS

Song #7 KING OF BROKEN HEARTS - Ken **Tizzard and Music For Goats** 

Song #8 DRUNK STONED AND BROKE - Ken Tizzard and Music For Goats







You're going to have to wait for the December fanzine for the Christmas reveal. Here is our outdoor Christmas display.





My Bedroom Window



If you broke your arm would you go to the doctor or would you try to reset your own bone because maybe you saw someone do it in a movie once. We all know that there are people out there with more advanced knowledge and technical skill than we possess. Yet how receptive are we to hearing what they have to say. How receptive are we to their help. This meditation is about you and learning to trust outside of yourself.





You may remember this incredible story from 2018 when twelve boys and their soccer coach were trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand. They survived but getting them out was a daring effort. It brought together the Royal Thai Navy Seals, the US Air Force Special Tactics and volunteers from around the world. The most amazing part ultimately the rescue was led not by the military or the seals but by a bunch of middle aged guys who liked to cave dive as a hobby.

For example a retired firefighter, an IT specialist, an emergency room doctor and a mechanic. Just some normal dudes obsessed with a super niche and a super dangerous pursuit that most people would never consider trying.

Here's what happened when they heard what was going on they hopped on flights from their various countries to come and help. You see these civilians had specific expertise that no Thai rescue teams had. They worked together to devise an audacious plan to get the boys out. But initially the Thai military and government were skeptical. They weren't prepared to turn over the operation to these outsiders. They were nervous about the plan which involved swimming over a mile in complete darkness, sedating the boys and diving them out. I thought this meditation gave a completely different perspective on such an amazing story.

On June 23rd, 2018, twelve members of the soccer team aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old assistant coach entered the Tham Luang Nang Non cave after a practice. Shortly after they entered, heavy rainfall began, blocking their way out and trapping them.

On July 2nd, British divers found the group alive on an elevated rock about 2.5 miles from the cave mouth. Between July 8th and 10th, all 12 boys and their coach were rescued.

The rescue effort involved as many as 10,000 people, including more than 100 divers, scores of rescue workers, 900 police officers, and 2,000 soldiers. Ten police helicopters, seven ambulances, more than 700 diving cylinders, and the pumping of more than one billion litres of water from the caves were required.

It seemed way too risky, tensions rose, no one could agree. With the clock ticking officials realized they needed to trust these unique men and their unique talents. Against all odds the divers were successful and this mission has been hailed as one of the most extraordinary rescues ever. It was a breathtaking display of bravery and compassion and a huge dose of wisdom. This story could have been completely different if the people in charge had let their egos get in the way. All of us can learn from that.

When we need to make a decision or take action with huge consequences for ourselves or others instead of relying solely on our own reasoning and abilities we can let the best person for the job lead the way. This isn't always easy sometimes we think we know best or we want to be self-sufficient so we refuse outside help. Perhaps we like the Thai government are in a position of power and we worry if we give up control we will seem weak. Other times we are simply overconfident, it is common to miss major red flags or opportunities. There are times that we need to look outside of ourselves to get the right help or make the right decision. There are people out there that may be more capable than us.

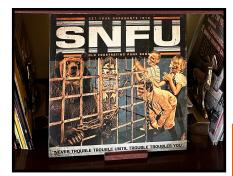


Think about do you ever ignore or turn down help from others? Why do you do that? Going forward can you start to be more open, can you consider trusting outside of yourself?

Meditation and mindfulness have truly changed my life. I use and highly recommend the Calm app. These meditation "lessons" that I share are written by Jay Shetty (Daily Jay). He usually ends with a version of, "I hope you will share this message to someone who might find it valuable."

#### Wrapping Up \_\_\_\_\_ From Ken's Record Collection

**SNFU** - Never Trouble Trouble Until Trouble Troubles You (Get Your Opponents Into Old Frustrating Punk Band) Admittedly this album came out many years after my love affair with this band had faded out. However while recollecting old records I grabbed this one in Edmonton a few months back. The band is on par and the tunes are pretty natural for what you'd expect for one of Canada's best hardcore acts. A bit more produced than some of the others and energy a bit lower than earlier albums, "No One Else Wanted To Play" and "If You Swear You'll Catch No Fish" - however for fans of the band this is a nice addition to spice things up from time to time... RIP CHI





#### Sneak Peek

Wednesday, December 6th - All Request Night

Wednesday, December 13th - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

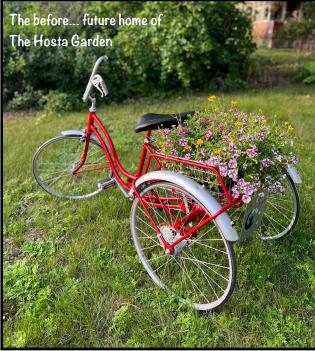
Wednesday, December 20th - Whiskey Wednesday Show Christmas Party We have lots planned, a few video guests, many Christmas tunes, festive drinks and a surprise or two.

Ken

Wednesday, December 27th - 2nd Annual Live & In Person at Be My Guest We will have something for online viewers like me who can't be there in person to enjoy. You can even hang out in the Clubhouse.

#### Introducing The Hosta Garden

Phase One



These bushes have never been touched in the 23 years we have been here.



Neil had a handy tool that Ken used to cut down this branch. They are also working on pruning the bushes. You can see they have started to thin out.

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Phase Two



Time for transplanting. Unfortunately the orange lilies did not make it.

We planted this elephant hosta about 20 years ago so I was anxious when Neil dug it up and divided it. I had nothing to worry about.



#### **Phase Three**

The space is so open and airy. It feels like it can breathe. We discovered a tree among all those bushes. Isn't she adorable. As you can see the elephant hosta has been divided and Neil moved all our other hostas that were in the other gardens into this one area. Rest assured the submarine periscope has been moved to the side of the house, out of view.

#### Phase Four (coming spring 2024)

This is the garden where the bulb mixup happened on the day of the Dylan concert. It will be exciting to see what comes up!

